

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of Health and Community Committee of Derry City and Strabane District Council held in the Council Chamber, Strabane Council Offices on Thursday 17 January 2019 at 4.00pm.

Present: - Councillor R McHugh (Chairperson); Aldermen McClintock and Thompson; Councillors Campbell, Carlin, Cusack, Donnelly, Duffy, McGinley, Mellon, Reilly, Robinson and Tierney.

Non-members of Committee:- Alderman Hussey; Councillors Gallagher, P Kelly and O'Reilly.

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), PA to Health and Community Director (Mrs L Shields) and Committee Services Assistant (Mrs T Johnstone).

HC01/19 Notice and Summons for Meeting

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

HC02/19 Members Attendance and Apologies

The Head of Community Development and Leisure recorded Members attendance. Apologies were recorded for Alderman R Hamilton

HC03/19 Declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor McGinley declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 10 – Establishment of a Taskforce on Welfare Reform.

Alderman McClintock declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 10 – Establishment of a Taskforce on Welfare Reform.

Alderman Thompson declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 9 – Good Relations Audit, Strategy and Action Plan 2018-21.

Councillor Reilly declared an interest in the following agenda item:

- Agenda item 10 – Establishment of a Taskforce on Welfare Reform.

Councillor Carlin declared an interest in the following agenda items:

- Agenda item 9 – Good Relations Audit, Strategy and Action Plan 2018-21
- Agenda item 11 – Dog Control Enforcement Policy
- Agenda item 15 – Dog Control Cases.

Open for Decision

HC04/19 Deputation – to receive Mr Donall Henderson, Chief Executive, Foyle Hospice, Mrs Angela McIntyre, Chairperson and Mrs Annette Gamble, Community Palliative Care Team to discuss the Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

The Chair invited the representatives, to make their presentation to the committee.

The representatives proceeded with their presentation, highlighting the following:

- The Foyle Hospice began as a Community Home Care Team in 1985
- The inpatient unit officially opened in 1991 and the day hospice facility opened in 2001
- Their mission is to provide compassionate, palliative care to individuals with a life-limiting illness, their families and carers through high quality specialist holistic support
- Significant consultation period with staff, service users, trustees and management team in order to produce their strategy going forward
- Launched their three year strategy in October 2018
- Geographically the Foyle Hospice provides services primarily to Limavady, Derry/Londonderry and Strabane
- Provide services within areas of Omagh, Fermanagh and other parts of Northern Ireland in collaboration with the Northern Ireland Hospice
- Core services include a ten bed inpatient unit, community specialist team which operates 5 days per week, day hospice service and a 24/7 advice line

- Wish to increase the facility at Culmore Road from a ten bed patient unit to twelve and increase the community specialist team to a 7 day service
- Other additional services include bereavement and support groups, compassionate communities and collaborative pilot programmes
- Bereavement groups include – Forget Me Not Adult Bereavement Support Group and Healing Hearts Children’s Bereavement Support
- Approximately £3.03 million in funding is required for 2018/19
- Thirty percent of total annual running costs are provided through the Health and Social Care Board
- Approximately 70 percent of funding from the local community
- Fundraising is required to make up the 70 percent total running costs with events and activities, local support groups, legacies, grassroots, corporate organisations and schools and the retail sector within the local community.

Members from all parties and the Independent grouping thanked the representatives for their presentation. They stated that the Foyle Hospice provided an invaluable, caring and compassionate service for people throughout the City and District and beyond.

In response to a query from Alderman McClintock, Mr Henderson stated that there were three independent hospices in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Hospice which covered a substantial area of Northern Ireland, the Southern Area Hospice based in Newry and the Foyle Hospice. He stated that the Foyle Hospice primarily covered the Western Trust area, however patients have been referred to them from other areas throughout Northern Ireland.

Councillor Reilly referred to the additional services provided by the Foyle Hospice, particularly the Healing Hearts Children’s Bereavement and Support Service and asked how many children had been helped by the service. He then expressed gratitude to all those involved in fundraising events and activities for the Hospice given that 70 percent of funding came from people and organisations throughout the City and District.

In response, Mrs McIntyre stated that the Healing Hearts Children’s Bereavement and Support Service was initiated as a two year pilot programme to help children and young people who had suffered bereavement. She referred to the ‘making a bear’ project, where bereaved children made a teddy bear using garments that had

belonged to a loved one. She stated that the children had found great comfort in making the bears which had also helped them cope with their loss. She outlined the various activities and counselling services available for the children to help them through a difficult time in their lives. She stated that the service had made the Hospice a more welcoming environment for children and young people with a children's party held annually at the Hospice for the children who had used the service. She stated that it was important that the Hospice was seen as a safe place rather than a negative environment for children who had lost a loved one. She emphasised the importance of funding in order for the service to continue.

Mr Henderson stated that the service was comprised of two elements, pre-bereavement and post-bereavement. He reported that for 2017/18 twenty one children had used the pre-bereavement service with forty two post-bereavement. He stated that Foyle Hospice also had a volunteer counsellor in place who provided support to 9 children who were identified as having been traumatised more significantly than some of the other children using the service. He explained that the counsellor provided this service in a voluntary capacity due to the lack of funding. He outlined that the organisation was attempting to identify grant opportunities that may become available going forward. However most grants for hospice funding did not include Northern Ireland, therefore they were exempt from applying for specific grants.

Alderman Hussey expressed his admiration to those in the Foyle Hospice and indeed everyone involved in palliative care. He asked if the Hospice had a unique selling point compared to other organisations who relied on fundraising. He stated that with organisations involved in palliative care there was the potential for services to become duplicated and asked if this could be avoided by closer co-operation between organisations. He then referred to the presentation and noted that there was no reference made to administrative costs at the Hospice and asked what percentage of the budget was used to cover those costs.

In response, Mr Henderson stated that the final page of their annual reports outlined the funding sources and how they were allocated across the various services. He stated that there were other charities within the council area that carried out tremendous work in other and in similar areas. He outlined that the Hospice worked in partnership with Marie Curie and MacMillan Cancer Care and had also benefitted from help by the Allied Health Professionals who provided services to a

number of Foyle Hospice patients. He stated that in terms of a unique selling point, the Foyle Hospice was a local charity for the local community and that all of the money that came into the organisation was used for the local community. He stated that the post of palliative care doctor at Foyle Hospice was a shared post with Altnagelvin Area Hospital.

Mrs McIntyre stated that Foyle Hospice was constantly improving services for patients and their families. She further stated that Foyle Hospice was a wonderful facility and extended an invitation to Members to visit their facility.

Councillor O'Reilly stated that he was encouraged by the progression of the services available at the Foyle Hospice, particularly in helping children cope with bereavement. He noted that a charity in the city that had provided a similar service had now ceased to operate which had created a void for this type of provision. He stated that he would like to take the opportunity to visit the hospice and suggested that a delegation of Councillors visit to see how they could offer practical help to support the organisation and promote the children's service.

Councillor Donnelly stated that he wished to pay tribute to the staff at the Foyle Hospice. He stated that a diagnosis such as cancer was indiscriminate and as such had touched all sections of our communities which would otherwise be divided. He added that the Hospice had the full support of everyone throughout community and he hoped this would continue.

Alderman Thompson referred to the service for Compassionate Communities and noted that funding would be available until March 2019. He queried if there was any indication if the service would continue after that date.

In response, Mr Henderson stated that a forthcoming meeting was scheduled to take place with the Integrated Care Partnership who facilitated the funding for that project. He stated that they would be making a request for long term recurrent funding for 2019/20, however if they were unsuccessful, a back-up plan in terms of alternative funding was in place. He stated that they were also looking at other potential income streams such as the Big Lottery Fund and noted that an application to the fund was pending. He further stated that in terms of Council support he wished to express gratitude to Councillors, Mr Donaghy, Head of Health and Community Wellbeing who was also

a member of the Project Management Board for the Compassionate Cities Project for their support in moving forward with the Compassionate Cities Charter and Mr Murray, Senior Environmental Health Officer for providing support from a Council perspective.

Mr Henderson outlined that a proposal had been made to expand the Compassionate Communities Project, however, there were resourcing issues and discussions with funders were taking place on how the Hospice intended to progress and expand the project. He stated that the Board of Trustees at Foyle Hospice were committed long term in principle if there was an opportunity to provide funding. However they had undertaken a commitment to fund the project in the short term if funding was not forthcoming from elsewhere. He added that if fifty percent funding on a recurrent basis was agreed then another source of income to make up the shortfall had to be identified.

Councillor Robinson echoed the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers regarding the valuable work carried out by the hospice within the community. He referred to the financial deficit and asked what affect this had on their services.

In response, Mr Henderson stated that in the short to medium term the deficit in funding would not impact on services provided by Foyle Hospice. He outlined that reserves were available, however they were not sustainable. He stated that the Hospice did not currently have a committed resource for submitting grant applications, however this was under consideration for future projects.

He further stated that the current economic situation had an impact on funding as people only had a finite amount of money and were therefore unable to donate as generously as they had in the past. He also referred to the current culture of paying for goods by card which was something to be addressed going forward. He then referred to Foyle Hospice Copper Hunt collection boxes at retailers and businesses throughout the city and stated that donations to this were also decreasing year on year. He stated that a significant amount of money was still being raised with £124,000 in 2018, however several years ago it was upward of approximately £170,000.

The Chair echoed the sentiments expressed by Members and stated that he was acutely aware of the excellent service provided by Foyle Hospice. He stated that a number of challenges faced by the organisation had been outlined and that with their ongoing work and

the help of the community it was hoped that they would be in a position to face those challenges going forward. He wished them well in their endeavours and thanked them for their presentation.

Chairperson's Business

HC05/19 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Members of the Committee to the Chamber after the Christmas break and wished them a Happy New Year.

The Chair then welcomed the €8.2m funding from Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) awarded to the Waterside Shared Spaces Project. He expressed his thanks to everyone involved in the project. He also welcomed the £26,000 funding from the Department for Communities for the provision of CCTV in Strabane town centre.

HC06/19 BT Young Scientists Awards

The Chair referred to a recent achievement by Oran Timoney from Castleberg who attends Holy Cross College in Strabane. He stated that the pupil had won a special award for 'Project with the Best Impact on Human Health' from the Royal College of Surgeons for his work entitled 'categorising cardiovascular disease patient risk using machine learning tools', at the BT Young Scientists Awards held recently in Dublin. He proposed that the Committee write a letter of congratulations and contact the Mayor's Office to request consideration of a reception to acknowledge the award.

HC07/19 Castleberg High School

Alderman Hussey extended his congratulations to Oran Timoney on winning the award. He stated that it was also important to note the magnificent achievement from Castleberg High School on being placed first in the non-grammar GCSE league table including English and Maths.

HC08/19 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 6 December 2018

The open Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 December 2018 (HC242/18 –HC256/18) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

Matters Arising

**HC09/19 Derry City and Strabane District Civic Forum (Suicide Prevention)
(HC249/18)**

Councillor Robinson referred to the proposed action regarding the removal of the messages of hope from the bridges and riverfront in the city and asked if there was any indication as to when the public consultation process would begin and how it would be undertaken.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that discussions had taken place with the statutory partners who were regarded as the experts in that field, the Public Health Agency (PHA), Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT) and others. He stated that a consultation process had been carried out by the PHA and they would be invited to present the details of that consultation process to Members.

Councillor Robinson stated that he sought clarification on the matter as the agreed proposal was that a 12 week public consultation exercise would take place.

In response, the Director of Health and Community outlined that the expert advice and research was required to determine how to progress with the consultation and assist with the process.

Councillor Donnelly stated that it had been agreed at the meeting of the Health and Community Committee on 6 December 2018 that Members defer the recommendation until a 12 week consultation period had taken place with those responsible for displaying the messages and memorabilia at the bridges and along the riverfront. He stated that in his opinion, what was now being suggested was not what had been agreed previously.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that discussions had taken place with statutory health agencies and Professor O'Neill, Professor for Mental Health, Ulster University, who have agreed to discuss the proposed consultation process with Members. He outlined that from a Council Officer perspective, it was important to seek advice from the statutory health agencies who are experts in this area of health prior to carrying out a public consultation. He stated that at the Committee meeting on 6 December, he was not aware that a consultation had already taken place and that the PHA and UU had agreed to come before Members to discuss the best way forward.

In response to a query from Alderman Thompson, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing confirmed that the representatives from the various agencies have agreed to present an update to Members and that the public consultation would subsequently take place.

Councillor Tierney stated that whilst he understood the rationale for expert opinions on the matter, it was agreed that a 12 week public consultation would take place which still must happen regardless of whether or not the experts presented an update.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing outlined that on speaking with the health professionals and experts they wished to discuss and update Members on what the previous consultation involved and how best to proceed with the public consultation.

Alderman Hussey concurred with the previous speakers and stated that the kernel of what had been proposed was the importance of engaging with families in a two way process.

Councillor P Kelly queried if the consultation process would involve the entire district and that the experts would have to present as soon as possible in order for the consultation to take place.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that representatives from the PHA and UU would update Members and a decision would be taken on the best way forward regarding the public consultation process. He added that this particular type of consultation required more thought and consideration before going forward.

Councillor Duffy informed the Committee that she had proposed at a recent meeting of the Civic Forum where the matter was discussed in detail that representatives make a presentation. She indicated that Council officers and Members did not have the expertise to design this type of consultation so it was necessary to take the advice of the experts on how the consultation would take place. She felt that Council needed to be guided by the experts on how to frame the consultation so that families were not traumatised further.

Councillor O'Reilly referred to Councillor Duffy's comments regarding further traumatising families and stated that those particular families were already traumatised and did not have any connection with statutory agencies. He agreed that Members had to take guidance

from policy and research, however there was a serious lack of connection between families and statutory agencies which led to the manifestation in our city of placing memorabilia on the bridges. He stated that it was important that families felt supported and listened to rather than dictated to by statutory agencies.

The Director of Health and Community stated that all views and comments from Members had been noted. She further stated that the health experts would consider the recommended route for consultation and Members would be given an opportunity to contribute and engage with partners who were delivering services and working alongside people who have been impacted.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting at this point.

HC10/19 "On the Ball" Motion Update

The Head of Community Development and Leisure presented the report on behalf of the Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer, previously circulated to Members. He stated that the purpose of the report was to seek Members' views on and approval for the proposals in respect of combating period poverty.

He stated that further information regarding initiatives had been received from the providers of free sanitary products and once the details were finalised a more comprehensive report would be brought to a future Committee meeting which would also include the outcome of the pilot programme.

Councillor Duffy expressed her gratitude to the Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer and her team on their work and paid tribute to other community facilities and businesses in the Derry area who had taken action to provide free period products in their facilities which is a great step forward. She stated that concern had been expressed that the system may be abused, however the feedback received from those involved in the scheme had been positive. She proposed that the Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium be included in the Pilot Scheme as Celtic Stadium in Scotland had been the first to introduce the programme with approximately 50 Scottish Stadia also taking part. She stated that she looked forward to the programme being rolled out across the city and district and that Derry City and Strabane District Council was leading the way by being the first in Ireland to implement such a scheme.

Alderman McClintock concurred with the previous speaker and thanked officers for moving on it so quickly. She then seconded the proposal from Councillor Duffy to have the Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium included in the pilot programme.

In response to a query by Alderman Hussey the Head of Community Development and Leisure informed him that Foyle Arena, Templemore Sports Complex and Riversdale Leisure Centre were the three leisure centres involved in the pilot scheme.

Alderman Hussey felt that Melvin and Derg Valley Leisure Centres should also be included alongside the Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium.

In response, the Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that at the recent meeting of the Western Area Outcomes Group discussions had taken place regarding the inclusion of sporting grounds and Tier 2 leisure centres onto the programme and this would be considered going forward.

The Committee

Recommended

That (i) There is an initial three month pilot incorporating 3 leisure centres (excluding pavilions), and the Guildhall starting February/March 2019, (ii) that the Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium is included in the three month pilot scheme, (iii) Officers from the community development section liaise with the management of council owned community facilities to secure external funding and deliver collaborative approaches to provide free sanitary products for issue within these premises and (iv) Officers bring back a report to review the results of the pilot, including progress/options in respect of community facilities and the anticipated costs of the

implementation of the Period Poverty Initiative.

HC11/19 Good Relations Audit, Strategy and Action Plan 2018-21

The Head of Community Development and Leisure presented the above report, previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to provide clarification for Members regarding the level of responses received during the consultation and to explain the rationale for the reference to the report entitled Protestant Migration from the West Bank of Derry/Londonderry 1969-1980, by Dr Ulf Hansson and Dr Helen McLaughlin, commissioned by the Pat Finucane Centre and to seek Members' approval of the Draft Good Relations Strategy and Plan 2018-2021.

He stated that regarding any other relevant actions that had not been included in the report, there would be a forthcoming action plan linked to Executive Office funding for 2019/2022. He noted that the action plan is to be developed at the request of the Executive Office and Members' comments would be invited.

Alderman McClintock thanked Officers for the report. She stated that it was extremely important that the Good Relations strategy was agreed and bought into by the entire community. She explained that her repeated requests regarding the reference to the Pat Finucane Report was due to the fact that the broader Protestant, Unionist, Loyalist (PUL) community did not give the same credence to the report compared to the Nationalist community which she felt had in some ways, damaged good relations. She stated that she had repeatedly questioned the reference to the Irish Language being promoted in the PUL community and still did not have the information regarding the number of respondents who had requested it. She queried that if only one or two had responded why it had been necessary to particularly mention it in the report. She stated that this was a clear equality issue and if the PUL Community are to embrace the Irish Language then the Nationalist community should be given the opportunity to embrace the Ulster Scots culture and tradition.

She felt that public money should not be wasted on what may just be a throw away comment from one or two people regarding the PUL community embracing the Irish language and that the PUL community would be reassured that resources would be targeted for equality towards the Ulster Scots tradition. She stated that this was a prime objective of the collective PUL grouping who were currently exploring

every avenue to secure a dedicated PUL outreach co-ordinator/policy worker. She emphasised the importance moving forward to embrace all the opportunities and to understand the crucial issues affecting the Protestant community including, but not limited to, the exodus. She stated that many people within the PUL community felt that there have been attempts to dilute the importance of those issues. She thanked the Head of Community Development and Leisure for the reassurance that an action plan would be developed and whilst she understood the importance of finalising the good relations strategy it was important that there was assurance from Members and Officers that cognisance would be given to the points raised.

The Committee

Recommended **that (i) Members note the content of this report in relation to the level of responses received during the consultation and to explain the rationale for the reference to the report entitled Protestant Migration from the West Bank of Derry/Londonderry 1969-1980, by Dr Ulf Hansson and Dr Helen McLaughlin, commissioned by the Pat Finucane Centre and (ii) Members approve the Draft Good Relations Audit, Strategy and Action Plan 2018-21.**

HC12/19 Establishment of a Taskforce on Welfare Reform

The Head of Community Development and Leisure presented the above report, previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to recommend the establishment of a Taskforce on Welfare Reform for the Council area and the nomination of Elected Members to the Taskforce.

Councillor McGinley stated that he endorsed the recommendation which was consistent with Council's ongoing support for advice service provision. He noted that Derry City and Strabane District Council already provided over £300,000 of mitigations for the work carried out by advice service providers and that Sinn Fein had recently asked Council officers to identify any additional resources particularly regarding appeals and tribunals which had created additional pressure for those frontline services. He referred to the Auditor General's

comments regarding the importance of the mitigation measures which were negotiated primarily by Sinn Fein as part of the Fresh Start Agreement and that the recommendations in that report presented Council with the opportunity to further assist those most in need.

Councillor McGinley was nominated to represent Sinn Fein on the Taskforce.

Councillor O'Reilly stated that this had originated from a motion he presented to Council on 25 October 2018. He expressed concern that the recommendation within the report did not identify the corporate position of Council as stated in the Motion:

'Given this Council's corporate position is to not implement cuts this Council calls for the immediate halting of the introduction of Universal Credit.

This Council will investigate, and report to Members, its capacity to help those already affected by this policy.

Further this Council will develop a strategy that will allow us to enhance our corporate position.'

He stated that Council was not recommended to mitigate the cuts but to oppose them. He further stated that the Taskforce would be expected to help those affected by Universal Credit as recommended within the Motion, however first and foremost Council must oppose these cuts and call for them to be abolished immediately. He suggested that a lobby group be built into the framework of the Taskforce and a campaign launched to ensure that Council is forceful in carrying out the recommendations.

Councillor Tierney stated that it was an extremely sad state of affairs that such a Taskforce was needed to try and help those affected by the worst type of welfare reform. He referred to comments made by Councillor Reilly at a previous meeting that mitigation measures would not have been needed if Westminster had not been given full control of our system by Sinn Fein, DUP and the Alliance Party. He stated that this is where those decisions have brought us and unfortunately Council now need to set up a Taskforce to look at how people can be helped and supported. He referred to recent comments made on social media regarding the Auditor General's report and the good work that Sinn Fein were involved in regarding mitigations and asked what would

happen from March next year with no government or mitigations in place. He queried how Sinn Fein was going to protect people unless they returned to government.

Councillor Tierney was nominated as the SDLP representative to sit on the Taskforce.

Councillor Gallagher stated that when Sinn Fein voted for the legislative consent to allow the implementation of welfare reform these issues had been identified. He referred to Sinn Fein's nomination to the Taskforce given that they had voted for welfare reform. He stated that people were facing real hardship with an increase in people using local foodbanks. He referred to the Auditor General's report and noted that £136m of the mitigation package had not been allocated. He stated that the funding should have went to help those on benefits and also the working poor, however they were denied it. He noted that the amount averaged out to the city and district was approximately £12m which was taken out of the local economy. He noted that the Auditor General had stated in his conclusions that welfare reform was not value for money, nor was it likely to be. He felt that Councillor McGinley had been keen to nominate himself to the Taskforce in an effort for his party to control decisions and take credit. He added that if the Taskforce did not list the abolition of Universal Credit at the top of its remit it would have absolutely no value.

Alderman Thompson stated that the recommendation was to approve the establishment of and nominate Members onto a Taskforce. He stated that a proposal had been put forward and seconded for the establishment of a Taskforce.

He then nominated Alderman McClintock as representative for the DUP and Alderman Hussey as representative for the UUP to sit on the Taskforce.

Councillor Donnelly referred to the hypocrisy of some Members of the Committee. He referred to comments made by Councillor McGinley regarding more money being available for advice services to sort out a situation that Sinn Fein had voted for. He felt that the DUP should attend a forthcoming conflict of interest training session as they had also voted for welfare reform then nominated Members onto the Taskforce. He emphasised that the corporate position of Council was not to implement cuts and for the immediate halting of the introduction of Universal Credit. He stated that Gary Middleton MLA

remarked that the DUP had made the hard decision to vote for the implementation of welfare reform and would stand over it which he felt at least had an element of honesty.

Alderman McClintock stated that she had found some of the previous comments quite insulting. She stated that the DUP will take part on the Taskforce along with the other statutory agencies to see what could be undertaken to mitigate the impact that welfare reform has had on local people. She reiterated that the DUP would take their place and not be told by any Member of the Independent grouping or other parties that the DUP should not be there.

Councillor McGinley noted that the Tory Government had intended to implement the cuts into Northern Ireland which would have happened with or without protection. He stated that Sinn Fein was given a choice to agree to the cuts with or without protection, therefore they negotiated £580m through the Fresh Start Agreement. He noted that the Auditor General's report clearly indicated Sinn Fein's position on the matter. He stated that Sinn Fein provided leadership whilst others sat on the side lines and would make no apologies for securing the mitigations that protected thousands of families. He queried comments made by Councillor Gallagher regarding control and sought clarification on his statement.

The Chair reminded Members that Committee had been asked to endorse the recommendation within the report and to nominate Members to sit on the Taskforce and asked them to make comments relevant to that.

Councillor Robinson stated that it was clear where the cut had originated from and there were now attempts to defend the indefensible. He referred to membership of the Taskforce which he felt was not broad enough and noted that there were groups within the community that had a wealth of experience in providing advice on those particular issues which he felt could be included. He said that Councillor O'Reilly's remarks regarding the direction of the Taskforce should be included within the recommendations going forward as the report did not fully reflect the original motion that was passed at Council.

He nominated Councillor O'Reilly to sit on the Taskforce

Councillor P Kelly queried if the statutory agencies had been approached regarding the setting up of the Taskforce as some may have a conflict of interest.

In response to a query by Councillor P Kelly, the Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that a similar project has begun in Newry and that the Taskforce would be based on that approach. He stated that the majority of the statutory agencies would be involved and were awaiting nominations from two other statutory agencies.

Alderman McClintock stated that it had been made clear at the Mayor's Initiative that people had to come together to decide on the best way forward and that Members should be discussing the issues and not be going into meetings with a pre-conceived agenda.

Councillor Donnelly stated that the matter originated from a Motion presented to Council from Councillor O'Reilly and not the Mayor's Initiative.

The Chair stated that the corporate position of Council was that Council oppose the cuts and the Taskforce would reflect the corporate position of Council. He further stated that whilst Council may be opposed to the cuts it could not stop them being implemented, however discussions could take place on how to support those affected.

Councillor Donnelly outlined that the motion had called for the immediate halting of Universal Credit and queried if that was the position of those nominated to sit on the Taskforce.

Alderman McClintock referred to 2.1 of the report; *'The need for a Taskforce has been identified as a result of the recent Mayoral Initiative involving Housing Associations and Advice Agencies on the impact of the rollout of Universal Credit.'* and stated that the Taskforce had to come together to discuss those issues with the other agencies whether there is a corporate position or not.

The Chair asked Members to vote on the recommendations within the report.

In response to a query by Councillor Tierney, the Chair explained that it was quite obvious from the discussion that there was not a unanimous agreement for the recommendation, therefore a vote would be taken.

After a request for clarification regarding the recommendation from Alderman Thompson, the Chair stated that Members would be voting on the recommendation stated within the report.

After voting by a show of hands the results were as follows;

For the Recommendations – 10; Against – 2; Abstentions – 0 and

The Committee

Recommended **That (i) Members approve the establishment of a Taskforce to monitor and report on the impact of welfare reform for the Council area and (ii) Aldermen Hussey and McClintock and Councillors McGinley, O'Reilly and Tierney were nominated as Members to the Taskforce.**

HC13/19 Dog Control Enforcement Policy

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was for Members to consider the content of the report and approve the proposed Dog Control Enforcement Policy

Councillor P Kelly stated that dog fouling was a major issue throughout the city and district, however there was no information relating to the number of prosecutions made regarding dog fouling on the DAERA website and asked officers for the information.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that the report issued by DAERA related to dog control legislation whereas dog fouling related to Clean Neighbourhood Legislation. He further stated that he would provide the statistics requested.

Councillor Campbell concurred with the remarks made by the previous speaker. He stated that dog fouling was a major issue with constituents contacting their Elected Representatives on a regular basis to have the matter dealt with. He stated that Council had issued approximately 8,000 dog licences and that part of the problem was due to irresponsible dog owners who allowed their dogs to roam the streets

and foul on the pavements and open spaces. He suggested implementing a campaign with community groups and distributing information on social media. He added that a lot of good work had been carried out by officers, however dog fouling remained a major issue throughout the council area.

Alderman McClintock concurred with the remarks made by the previous speakers. She referred to section 3.1 of the Dog Control Enforcement Policy, '*In the case of a 1st and 2nd offence within a 12 month period*' and asked what action would be taken for subsequent offences. She further stated that the matter was not solely relating to stray animals as dogs on a lead with their owner were also responsible for dog fouling and that further action was needed regarding this.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that dog fouling was an ongoing issue within all council areas. He stated that improvements had been made as the number of stray dogs had been reduced. He outlined that enforcement related to a different piece of legislation and that it was his understanding that approximately five fixed penalties were issued in the last year in relation to dog fouling. He stated that identifying the perpetrators was a problematic issue as officers could not cover all areas at all times. He noted that mobile CCTV cameras had assisted in terms of promoting responsible dog ownership and was an area that Council would continue to improve on. He referred to Alderman McClintock's query and stated that once a person went beyond that second offence it would be regarded as a recurrent offence and Council would consider prosecution at that stage.

Councillor P Kelly felt that Council should make more resources available to catch the dog owners allowing their dogs to foul to demonstrate that Council was taking a strong view on the matter.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the Council's Dog Control Enforcement Policy

HC20/19 Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Council Dog Summary Statistics (April-September 2018) and Draft Dog Control Work Plan 2019-2020

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members on the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Council Dog Summary Statistics report for April to September 2018 and seek Members' approval of the draft Dog Control Work Plan 2019-2020.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the Dog Control Service Work Plan for 2019/20.

HC21/19 WHO European Healthy Cities Network

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, previously circulated to Members. The purpose of the report was to advise Members that Derry City and Strabane District Council had successfully completed Phase VI (2014-2018) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network and to seek Members' approval for Derry City and Strabane District Council to submit an expression of interest in becoming a Phase VII (2019-2024) Healthy City Network member at an annual contribution of \$6,000 (US Dollars).

Councillor Gallagher stated that he wished to raise the matter of the Affordable Warmth Scheme as it was pertinent to health and wellbeing. He asked for an update regarding withdrawal of funding for the scheme as it would have a major impact on people in the city and district already suffering from fuel poverty.

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that it was his understanding that the Department for Communities (DfC) was committed to fund the Affordable Warmth Scheme for the next financial year. He stated that the Department had a draft five year plan but have been unable to proceed with it at this stage. He outlined that Council was working closely with both DfC and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to ensure that Council make the maximum permitted number of referrals to the NIHE. He noted that it was agreed that the Health and Community Committee would set up a working group and it was his understanding that an invitation for a meeting had been sent out. He stated that DfC had carried out a consultation process on the Affordable Warmth Scheme and once the results had

been produced from that consultation a meeting would be arranged to consider how the scheme is operating within the Council area.

In response to a query by Alderman Hussey, the Head of Community Health and Wellbeing stated that the only change made was an additional 5000 properties being identified, therefore the postcodes would have changed accordingly. He further stated that there had been difficulty regarding the backlog of assessed properties as there were already sufficient assessments undertaken for submission to the NIHE before commencing assessment of the additional 5,000 properties. He added that these matters would be considered at the working group and a way forward determined.

The Committee

Recommended that (i) Members note that Derry City and Strabane District Council has successfully completed Phase VI (2014-2018) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network and (ii) Members approve that DCSDC submit an expression of interest through the Mayor's Office in becoming a Phase VII (2019-2024) Healthy City Network member with an annual contribution of \$6,000.

Open for Information

HC22/19 Animal Welfare

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, which had been previously circulated to Members for information. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the levels of activity in the Animal Welfare Service within the Derry City and District Council area.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note (i) the level of activity in relation to Animal Welfare within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area, (ii) statistics

provided in Annual Animal Welfare Service Delivery – Statistical Bulletin 2017, (iii) Guidelines in relation to buying a puppy and (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between Councils, PSNI and DAERA.

HC23/19 Dog Control Cases

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, which had been previously circulated to Members for information. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the outcome of investigation into two separate cases where a dog attacked two individuals in May 2015 (HC232/18).

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the outcome of the investigations.

HC24/19 Update on Transfer of Houses in Multiple Occupation Function to Councils

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, which had been previously circulated to Members for information. The purpose of the report was to update Members on the progress with the transfer of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) function from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to Councils on 1 April 2019.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the current status of the progress with the transfer of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) function from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to Councils on 1 April 2019.

HC25/19 Air Pollution in Northern Ireland 2017

The Head of Health and Community Wellbeing presented the above report, which had been previously circulated to Members for information. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of the publication of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Report 'Air Pollution in Northern Ireland 2017'.

The Committee

Recommended **that Members note the publication of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Report 'Air Pollution in Northern Ireland 2017'.**

HC26/19 **Correspondence**

The Director of Health and Community presented the above report for information, previously circulated to Members regarding correspondence received by Council.

The Committee

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

The Meeting then went into Confidential Business.