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| <b>Title of Report:</b><br><br><b>Responses to Motions</b> | <b>Officer Presenting:</b><br><b>Chief Executive</b><br><br><b>Author:</b><br><b>Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer</b> |
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## 1.0 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

1.1 To advise Members of correspondence received in relation to Motions passed by Council.

## 2 Correspondence Received

### 2.0.1 Motion – Derry Coleraine Rail Upgrade (C240/20)

At a Meeting of Council held on 23 July 2020 the following Motion was passed:

That this Council notes that developing a comprehensive transportation network is absolutely vital for economic growth and ending regional inequalities;

notes that on 10 June the Minister for Infrastructure announced that a new feasibility study will be conducted on the third phase of the Derry-Coleraine rail upgrade;

further notes that such a feasibility study was already conducted nine years ago by the Department; calls on the Minister for Infrastructure and the wider Executive to ensure phase 3 of the Derry-Coleraine rail upgrade faces no further delays and for work to begin by 2021.

That Council write to Translink Management and to the Department for Infrastructure asking:

On the basis of what advice was it decided that a new feasibility study is needed before Phase Three of the upgrade of the Derry-Coleraine rail line can be given the go-ahead?

On what basis is it being said that if the commencement of a project or of part of a project is delayed for two years, a new feasibility study in respect of the project or part of the project must be completed before work can proceed?

On which other projects over the past five years has this stricture been applied - to

the A5 and A6 road projects for example, or the Belfast Transport Hub or the York Street interchange?

What was the role of the Department for Infrastructure in the making of the decision to postpone work on Phase Three?

Is it the Department's or Translink's intention to make all correspondence on this matter available to appropriate public bodies such as Derry and Strabane District Council?

Is it the case that the time-scale now envisaged by Translink and the Department would mean that work on Phase Three will not begin until mid-2023 and that it is likely that the project will not be completed until 2026 or 2027? If this is wrong, by what date is the Department and/or Translink confident that the work will be completed?

How would the Department or Translink set about dissuading people from Derry and Strabane from a belief that, in light of the latest postponement of Phase Three, they are being taken for fools?

2.0.2 The following responses were received:

Group Chief Executive, Translink – (Appendix 1)  
Minister for Infrastructure (Appendix 2).

### 2.1.1 **Proposal – Annexation of Lands in Palestine (C165/20)**

At a Meeting of Council held on 25 June 2020 the following Motion was passed:

That Council write to the Irish Government calling for the immediate implementation of the decision by Dail Eireann in 2014 to immediately recognise the State of Palestine. He stated that the government should end its opposition of the Occupied Territories Bill and pass the legislation at the same time. Furthermore, Council are call on the Irish Government to use its position within the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Security Council, to uphold International Law and to assist in the promotion of the humanitarian and national rights of the Palestinian people.

2.1.2 The following response was received:

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence - (Appendix 3)

### 2.2.1 **Motion – Ulster University Funding (C188/20)**

At the Meeting of Council held on 25 June 2020 the following Motion was passed:

That Council demands that following Stormont's loan to UU for expansion in its North Belfast Campus, a similar financial support be made available to any new institutions in Derry.

Council recognises that proposed City Deal funding to Ulster University is central to the NI Graduate Entry Medical School and other job generating research projects such as CIDRA and CARL

This Council demands that the British Government and Ulster University guarantee that any projects developed by the UU through City Deal funding will be based permanently in Derry. Council calls on the Stormont Executive and Dublin Government to clearly commit to funding ring fenced additional MasN places for the Magee Campus to maximise opportunities for expansion.

### 2.2.2 The following responses were received:

Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Appendix 4).

Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach (Appendix 5).

### 2.3.1 **Motion – Protection of Food Standards (C191/20)**

At the Meeting of Council held on 25 June 2020 the following Motion was passed:

That this Council writes to the DAERA Minister expressing concerns following the failure of the amendment to the Agricultural Bill 2019/20 on the protection of food standards in line with current EU standards.

Our consumers should expect food that is imported to this country to be of the same high standards of animal welfare and environmental protection as expected of food producers in Northern Ireland. Importing food produced to low animal welfare and environmental standards to undercut our local farmers, is unacceptable.

### 2.3.2 The following response was received:

Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Appendix 6)

### 2.4.1 **Proposal – A5/A6 Road Projects (C148/20)**

At the Meeting of Council held on 28 May 2020 the following Proposal was passed:

That Council that write to the Minister for Infrastructure to highlight the importance of the progression of the A5/A6 road projects. He further proposed that Council write to Irish and British Governments asking them to consider projects to enhance and progress the North West region.

2.4.2 The following response was received:

Minister for Roads, Buses and Places, Department for Transport (Appendix 7)

#### 2.5.1 **Motion – Brexit (C304/20)**

At the Meeting of Council held on 24 September 2020 the following Motion was passed:

That this Council notes the potential catastrophic economic implications of a 'no deal' on the Brexit negotiations on the Future Relationship;

recognises that while the Protocol on Ireland is imperfect, it guarantees that there will be no hard border on the island of Ireland, will protect the Good Friday Agreement in all its dimensions, North-South cooperation and the all-island economy;

that this Council writes to the British government and Executive Departments acknowledging the potential negative impacts on people, communities and business in the council area;

noting the deep and profound fears outlined by the Derry Chamber of Commerce that local businesses feel insecure, unprepared and uninformed about any Brexit scenario come 31 December 2020;

further noting that these fears have been compounded by recent confirmation that the British Government intend to break international law and the terms of the Protocol on Ireland;

calling on the British Government to ensure the full and faithful implementation of the Brexit protocol on Ireland;

calling on the Ministers for the Economy and Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to put in place mechanisms to mitigate any increased financial or bureaucratic pressures on local businesses, and outline plans to ensure that local businesses are confident and secure in the environment they are operating in.

2.5.2 The following response was received:

Department for Education (Appendix 8)

Interim response from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Appendix 9)

### 2.6.1 **Motion – Call for an Extension to the Brexit Transition Period (C194/20)**

At the Meeting of Council held on 25 June 2020 the following Motion was passed:

This Council notes the unique economic, social and political impact of Brexit on the North West of Ireland, across all sectors and communities.

This Council further notes the additional immense challenges facing workers, businesses, citizens, families and communities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This Council regards an extension to the said transition period, scheduled to end on 31 December 2020, to be essential to protect our economic interests, people's rights and environmental standards.

This Council welcomes the continuing regard for the interests and bespoke circumstances of this region demonstrated by the EU.

This Council calls for the British Government to secure a reasonable extension of the current Brexit transition period for a reasonable period to enable local governments, businesses, citizens and communities to make necessary preparations.

### 2.6.2 The following acknowledgement was received:

Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office. (Appendix 10)

### 2.7.1 **Motion – Deprivation and Poverty (C195/20)**

At the Meeting of Council held on 25 June 2020 the following Motion was passed:

That recently released statistics from the Department for Communities estimates that 92,000 children, 303,000 individuals, 176,000 working age people and 34,000 pensioners live in absolute poverty across the North. This represents an alarming increase in pre-Covid-19 deprivation.

The yet to be calculated economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic will further impact the number of families and individuals facing deprivation in Derry and Strabane. This is already evident in the massive increase in the number of people in receipt of the not-fit-for purpose Universal Credit.

Council agrees to invite a representative from the DfC and other anti-poverty groups to present on the scale of deprivation in the district.

Council agrees to create an Emergency Poverty Working Group to establish how many people living in the Derry and Strabane Council District face increasing deprivation. Council agrees on the need to develop a response to increased levels of poverty. Council agrees to work with trade unions, antipoverty groups, community organisations and others to develop a Derry and Strabane District Emergency Poverty Action Plan.

Council calls on the NI Executive to develop and implement an Anti-Poverty Strategy, as detailed in the New Decade, New Approach document.

Council supports the concept of Universal Basic Income as a means to eradicate poverty; and calls on the NI Executive and the UK Government to work collaboratively to introduce such a scheme.

2.7.2 The following acknowledgement was received:

Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office. (Appendix 11).

### **3.0 Recommendation**

3.1 Members are to consider the replies received and advise if any follow up action is required.