

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Open Minutes of the Meeting of Health and Community Committee of Derry City and Strabane District Council held Remotely on Thursday 10 December 2020 at 4.00pm.

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

Non-members of Committee:- Aldermen Hussey and Kerrigan. Councillors J Boyle, Carr, Donnelly, 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), PA to Health and Community Director (Mrs L Shields) and Committee Services Assistant (Mrs T Johnstone).

HC212/20 Notice and Summons for Meeting

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

HC213/20 Members Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Health and Community recorded Members attendance. No apologies were received.

HC214/20 Statement for Remote Meetings

The Director of Health and Community read the statement for remote meetings.

HC215/20 Declarations of Members' Interests

Alderman Hussey and Councillor Harkin declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 – Deputation: To receive Mr Joe McCusker, UNISON, re: Council Motion on Healthcare Workers Pay.

Councillor McHugh declared an interest in the following Agenda Items:

Agenda Item 9 – Update on the Public Conveniences Working Group
Agenda Item 16 – Additional NI Executive Funding for Food Support
Agenda Item 21 – Community Support Programme – Position Paper.

Alderman Devenney and Councillors Burke, Carr, Duffy and Logue declared an interest in Agenda Item 15 – Advice Services.

Alderman Guy declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 7 – Matters Arising from the Open Minutes of the Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 12 November 2020 (proposal to support taxi drivers).

Open for Decision

HC216/20 Deputation: To receive Mr Joe McCusker, UNISON, re: Council Motion on Healthcare Workers Pay.

The Chair referred to the notice of motion, passed by Council on 24 September 2020, 'that Council support the demands for an immediate pay increase for healthcare workers and to invite a local representative from the health and social care trade unions to speak on the matter'.

He advised that in response to that notice of motion, Mr Joe McCusker, UNISON was in attendance to present on the matter. He welcomed Mr McCusker to the meeting and invited him to speak to Members.

Mr McCusker thanked the Committee for extending an invitation to UNISON to speak to Members regarding the pay award for healthcare workers. He stated that over the past number of months, workers in the healthcare service had went above and beyond to ensure that those who contracted Covid-19 had been kept safe and looked after. He stated that those workers had experienced trauma during this time and worked tirelessly above and beyond expectations. He stated that healthcare workers were currently exhausted with low morale. However, they continued to deliver the best service they could to the people of Northern Ireland, particularly in the North West. He referred to the media reports from patients who expressed their appreciation and praised the work carried out by health service staff at Altnagelvin Hospital including, nurses, porters, domestics and medics.

Continuing, he referred to the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic and how everyone had also shown their appreciation for healthcare workers for several weeks during this time. He stated that every

Thursday evening people came out and when everyone clapped for carers. However, he felt that NHS workers deserved much more than applause for their efforts, they deserved a decent pay award. He noted that he had spoken at Council last year in relation to UNISON industrial action regarding pay parity for healthcare workers. He advised that UNISON now asked for a pay award to reflect the worth and value of those health service workers.

Mr McCusker advised the Committee that the UNISON pay claim was for £2,000 for each points scale towards every worker in the NHS. He stated that on 28 August 2020, they delivered that pay claim to Downing Street for consideration. However, no formal response had been received as yet from Downing Street, which he described as disappointing. He stated that UNISON had attempted to engage with the Treasury to obtain a response without success. However, they would continue to campaign for the pay award. He stated that the pay award of £2,000 on each scale point was the equivalent of an additional £1.00 per hour for each health worker. He stated that Members would be aware of the work carried out by health service staff over the past several months and that £1.00 an hour was not a significant amount. He noted that this would increase the minimum earnings of someone working in the health service from £18,000 per annum to £20,000. He noted that the salary for nursing staff would increase from £25,000 to £27,000 per annum. He felt that this was a fair, reasonable, affordable and well deserved pay award. He advised that £2,000, was a flat rate that could be easily and equally applied to everyone in the health service.

Continuing, he stated that in terms of the current situation regarding the pay claim, he believed that the British Government intended to defer the pay award to the UK Pay Review Body (PRB). He stated that PRB was an independent body who would make recommendations on the pay award. He stated that previously those pay awards had fell between 1 and 2% and noted that this was well below the pay claim. He expressed concern that the Government may deliberately defer the matter to the PRB with a view that they would recommend a conservative pay award. He advised that the Government did not have to follow the recommendations of the PRB. He noted that during the tenure of Mr Osborne and former Prime Minister David Cameron, the PRB had recommended pay awards for public sector staff. However, the Conservative Government ignored those recommendations and implemented a pay freeze. He described it as incredulous that the same Government could defer the matter to the PRB in the hope, they

believed, that the PRB would recommend the lower pay award. He advised that UNISON had engaged with PRB in relation to seeking the £2,000 pay award.

He noted that with regard to Northern Ireland, the Department of Health had not submitted a pay claim to the PRB and there was no indication if and when they would do so. He stated that UNISON expressed concerns that the British Government may allocate the money for any pay award using the Barnett formula and that UNISON had made a request to the Government that the Barnett Consequential should be taken into consideration. He stated that in terms of the pay claim, this had not progressed since the request submitted to Downing Street on 28 August 2020. He believed that the Tory Government was awaiting the PRB recommendation.

The Chair thanked Mr McCusker for providing Members with an update on the matter and invited comments from Members.

Councillor Harkin thanked Mr McCusker for attending the meeting. He stated that it was positive that Council had declared its support for the trade unions and for pay claims. He stated that £2,000 per health worker was small in comparison to the sacrifices made by health care workers across Northern Ireland and that it was not a big demand. He further stated that health care workers had worked on the front lines and had put their own lives at risk to keep others safe. However, the pay they received did not match their efforts and sacrifices. He commended the trade union organisations who were at the forefront of attempting to save the NHS. He stated that Council should do everything possible to assist the trade union demands. He commended the campaign by UNISON and their actions across the province to demand the £2,000 pay award for health care workers and expressed his disappointment at the lack of response from Westminster. He asked Mr McCusker what Council could do to support UNISON in its campaign to obtain the pay award for healthcare workers.

In response, Mr McCusker thanked Councillor Harkin for his comments. He stated that it was incumbent upon the local MPs at Westminster to act collectively to lobby for the pay claim for health service workers. He asked the Committee to urge their MPs to lobby Westminster for this pay award.

Councillor Ferguson thanked Mr McCusker for attending the meeting. She noted that Members were fully aware of the immense work carried out by healthcare workers prior to the coronavirus pandemic and even more so during that period. She stated that many of the staff were exhausted, yet continued to work and should be awarded a pay increase. She stated that the Alliance Party fully supported the UNISON campaign and extended a personal thanks to healthcare staff who recently cared for an elderly relative. She referred to the Barnett Consequential and asked if Mr McCusker could elaborate further on this.

In response, Mr McCusker advised that UNISON had expressed concern regarding the outcome with previous pay awards, as the UK Government had decided to fund the pay award for Northern Ireland using the Barnett Consequential method of funding. He stated that this caused great difficulties for the Executive to be able to meet the costs of the pay award. He advised that UNISON had submitted a request to the Treasury that any pay award for the devolved administrations, including Northern Ireland, should be separate to the funding allocated through the Barnett Consequential.

Councillor R Barr felt that the importance of the NHS could never be overstated. He stated that the importance of this service had been evident throughout the coronavirus pandemic. He felt, that in his opinion, the arrogance and contempt in which the pay claim has been treated was in total contrast to the dedication and personal sacrifice shown and by healthcare workers during the pandemic. He felt that their efforts should be rewarded and recognised with a decent wage.

Councillor Farrell thanked Mr McCusker on the presentation and stated that SDLP fully supported healthcare workers in the fight for fair pay. He stated that society relied heavily on the NHS on a daily basis, not just during the pandemic but every day of every year. He stated that the staff should be properly paid and that the £2,000 pay award was neither extravagant nor excessive, but justified and warranted.

He proposed that Council writes to UK Government and Department of Health demonstrating our support for immediate £2,000 pay rise and writes to Executive requesting £500 recognition payment for NHS and social care staff, separate to pay award, for efforts in combatting Covid.

Alderman Hussey noted that he had family past and present who have worked in the NHS and from a personal perspective he had great

admiration and support towards the health service. He expressed concern regarding a potential breaking of parity with UK pay levels. He advised that at the beginning of 2020, the Minister for Health, Robin Swann, had achieved pay parity. He felt that there needed to be an emphasis on Westminster to ensure that the awarding of pay to health service workers had that continued parity. He referred to the Barnett formula issue which was introduced to Northern Ireland as a block sum of money. However, nothing was ring-fenced within that sum. He believed that consideration should be given regarding the ring-fencing of health care pay within the Barnett formula as opposed to a separate payment. He stated that from a Party perspective, he would be contacting their Members in the House of Lords on the matter.

Alderman Devenney congratulated Alderman Guy on his new position of Chairperson of the Health and Community Committee and wished him well. He welcomed Mr McCusker to the meeting and thanked him for the detailed presentation adding that the DUP fully supported the campaign to award a pay increase for healthcare staff. He stated that on behalf of the DUP he wished to express his thanks to all NHS workers on their tremendous work during the pandemic. He stated that he had raised on numerous occasions, the comparison of pay towards agency staff and NHS employees.

Mr McCusker referred to the comments regarding pay parity. He advised that if money was not ring-fenced by the Treasury towards the pay award for Northern Ireland healthcare workers, there was a risk that the province would subsequently not have pay parity with the rest of the UK. He stated that it was important not to return to the scenario in 2019, when healthcare workers had to take strike action for their right to pay parity.

Councillor Edwards also welcomed Alderman Guy to his role of Chairperson. He expressed his thanks towards all healthcare workers for their tremendous work, particularly in the Strabane area during the pandemic. He stated that he supported the proposal brought forward by Councillor Farrell as it was important that the healthcare staff received the well-deserved pay increase and also the £500 payment in line with Scotland.

Councillor Gallagher thanked Mr McCusker on the presentation and wished him well on the campaign. He stated that it was important to receive a commitment to the pay award, particularly before March 2021. He noted that high-ranking British Government officials

supported and applauded the health service during the pandemic. He stated that now a vaccine had become available, healthcare staff would again be expected to work tirelessly to roll out the vaccine throughout the country. He stated that once the vaccine programme had been completed, the British Government would be awarded for their strategy on the programme and felt healthcare workers would not be considered and would drop way down the agenda.

Councillor Logue thanked Mr McCusker for attending the meeting. She stated that on behalf of Sinn Féin, she totally supported the UNISON campaign for all healthcare workers. She stated that on a personal note, she stated that her daughter currently worked in the Covid ward at a hospital in Liverpool. She stated that her daughter and her colleagues had been inundated from the beginning of the pandemic and were overworked and stretched beyond capacity.

In summary, Mr McCusker thanked the Committee for inviting him to the meeting. He referred to Councillor Logue's comments and felt that the pandemic was far from over and healthcare workers would still be expected to deliver under extreme circumstances. He believed that a further surge was to be expected in January with an expectation that the R number may rise from 1.8 to 2.0. He expressed concern that this would put enormous pressure on the health service along with the typical winter pressures which normally peaked in January. He stated that the award of a pay increase would give a much needed boost to their morale as they continued to keep the population safe and well.

The Chair thanked Mr McCusker for the presentation and wished UNISON well in their endeavours with the campaign towards the much deserved pay award to healthcare staff.

Councillor Farrell Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Reilly

That Council writes to UK Government and Department of Health demonstrating our support for immediate £2,000 pay rise and writes to Executive requesting £500 recognition payment for NHS and social care staff, separate to pay award, for efforts in combatting Covid.

Councillor Harkin proposed an Amendment, Seconded by Councillor R Barr

That Council writes to UK Government and Department of Health demonstrating our support for immediate £2,000 pay rise and writes to Executive requesting £500 recognition payment for NHS and social care staff, separate to pay award, for efforts in combatting Covid.

Funding for a pay increase should be ring-fenced by Westminster.

Council will write to local MPs calling on them to call on UK government to support UNISON pay demand. Council will support health care workers if they are forced to take industrial action to win this pay demand.

Councillor Gallagher stated that it was important that the Committee acted on any recommendations on the matter. He felt that by Council taking action in support of healthcare workers was extremely important towards their morale.

Councillor Ferguson asked if Councillor Harkin would agree to change the wording from local MPs to all Northern Ireland MPs.

Alderman Hussey asked that the proposal also included all Representatives at Westminster.

Councillor Harkin agreed to the suggested changes by Members.

Councillor Farrell stated that the healthcare workers deserved to receive this pay award and that not long ago, people were encouraged to support frontline workers every Thursday evening during the first wave of the pandemic. He felt that it was time for Government to step up and recognise the work carried out on a daily and nightly basis by healthcare staff to support society. He paraphrased the words of Cuba Gooding Jr., 'show them the money.'

Councillor Farrell Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Reilly

That Council writes to UK Government and Department of Health demonstrating our support for immediate £2,000 pay rise and writes to Executive requesting £500 recognition payment for NHS and social care

staff, separate to pay award, for efforts in combatting Covid.

Funding for a pay increase should be ring-fenced by Westminster.

Council will write to all MPs throughout Northern Ireland and Representatives at Westminster, calling on them to call on UK government to support UNISON pay demand. Council will support health care workers if they are forced to take industrial action to win this pay demand.

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

The Committee

Recommended	That Council writes to UK Government and Department of Health demonstrating our support for immediate £2,000 pay rise and writes to Executive requesting £500 recognition payment for NHS and social care staff, separate to pay award, for efforts in combatting Covid. Funding for a pay increase should be ring-fenced by Westminster. Council will write to all MPs throughout Northern Ireland and Representatives at Westminster, calling on them to call on UK government to support UNISON pay demand. Council will support health care workers if they are forced to take industrial action to win this pay demand.
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Chairperson's Business

HC217/20 Funding Announcement

The Chair, noted the recent announcement by the Minister for Communities of a further £6.5m to support the most vulnerable over the Christmas period. He advised that councils would be allocated £2.5m with £1m towards charities and £3m towards the Warm, Well

and Connected Programme. He stated that those most impacted by the coronavirus pandemic would also benefit from that funding. He felt that no person should go without at this time of year and that the funding would assist councils, volunteers and charities to provide assistance to those in most need.

HC218/20 Recent Shooting Incidents

The Chair condemned the recent reckless and dangerous actions of those who recently fired shots at a residence in the Waterside area of the city. He noted that thankfully, the occupant was not at home. He stated that such acts of violence were unwanted anywhere in our society. He called on those responsible to move away from such violence which only created fear within local communities.

Alderman Warke also expressed condemnation on the recent shooting incident.

Councillor Edwards concurred with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers and added his condemnation on the shooting. He also expressed his condemnation of the recent shooting in Aghyaran which had caused concern throughout the community.

Alderman Hussey concurred with the comments made by Councillor Edwards regarding concerned residents from the Aghyaran area. He noted that the PSNI were investigating the matter and encouraged everyone to assist with that investigation.

HC219/20 Role of Chairperson

The Chair advised that this was his first meeting as Chairperson of the Health and Community Committee and the last meeting of the year for Members and Officers. He wished to take this opportunity to thank Members for their contributions and to Officers for their continued work and effort to support Elected Representatives throughout the year. He stated that 2020 was a year in which health had taken priority over everything else and community help had been brought to the fore. He extended his thanks to all healthcare, community and voluntary workers and who have gone above and beyond. He wished Members and Officers a peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year.

HC220/20 Council Owned Football Pitches

Alderman Warke requested clarity regarding Council owned football pitches throughout the city and district. He stated that IFA had re-opened pitches throughout Northern Ireland. However, local teams in this Council area were still unable to play any match fixtures. He stated that if those teams wished to continue to play, they were required to attend away matches in a different Council area.

The Director of Health and Community indicated to Members that clarification on the matter had been received earlier today regarding what was permissible with regard to sport. She stated that due to the Committee meeting, she did not have the opportunity to review that communication. She advised that if anything further information became available that Members would be advised accordingly.

The Head of Community Development and Leisure advised that late yesterday evening, the IFA had submitted a statement and subsequently received clarity today from the Executive Office on the matter. He advised that there were a number of soccer leagues that had arranged fixtures prematurely in advance of the full statement issued by the Executive. He stated that the Officer team had met to discuss the matter and it was agreed that competitive fixtures could take place over the next two weekends. He advised that some pitches were currently unplayable due to the recent bad weather and that the grounds maintenance team were attempting to establish which pitches were currently at playing standard.

Alderman Hussey stated that the North West Cup Final would be taking place shortly and that the final could only take place at a ground that permitted spectators. He noted that one of those potential grounds was the Ryan McBride Brandywell Stadium. He asked the Head of Community Development and Leisure to clarify the situation regarding the possibility of that stadium being used for the North West Cup Final.

In response, the Head of Community Development and Leisure advised that the stadium was currently closed and that a number of staff were also placed on furlough. He further advised that leisure and sports facilities would normally be closed over the Christmas period. He stated that he was unaware of any proposed dates for the cup final, therefore, he was unsure when it would be required. He advised that consideration would have to be given to any proposed dates and also how to facilitate block bookings when the facility did re-open. However, he stated that every attempt would be made to facilitate the leagues if they had no other place to play.

Continuing, he advised that in relation to spectators, updated guidance had been recently issued regarding sporting events as alluded to by the Director. He stated that a risk assessment would have to be carried out to consider the specifics regarding particular games and leagues. He stated that Council would attempt to facilitate within those guidelines. However, he noted that the Health Minister had warned of further spikes of Covid-19 cases after the Christmas period. He stated that it was important not to build up hope and expectation within the community and sporting sectors by opening facilities then having to close them again after a short period of time. He stated that Officers would review the guidance and were also liaising with the Executive Office regarding what was expected to happen in the New Year with regard to sporting facilities.

Alderman Devenney thanked Officers for the update and asked if this would affect Council owned 3G and 4G pitches. He also asked if enough staff was available for when sporting facilities re-opened.

In response, the Head of Community Development and Leisure advised that the grounds maintenance team was currently working on pitches to prepare them for re-opening over the next two weekends. He stated that a large number of leisure and sports staff were currently on furlough and that Council expected to receive queries from the public regarding the opening of 3G pitches for training purposes. He stated that a number of leagues at both youth and senior levels had advised that they would not be re-starting until early January 2021. He stated that if the public wished to use the 3G pitches then staff would have to be brought off furlough. However, sports and leisure facilities would be closing for the Christmas period, similar to previous years. He stated that Officers were still discussing the matter and it was hoped that Council could facilitate some clubs that wished to train next week with the proviso that those facilities would be then closed for the Christmas period.

Alderman Warke appreciated the clarification provided by the Director of Health and Community and the Head of Community Development and Leisure.

HC221/20 Matters Arising from the Open Minutes of the Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 12 November 2020.

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2020 (HC188/20 –HC210/20) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

HC222/20 Employees within the Hospitality Sector (HC196/20)

Councillor Harkin asked if any response had been received in relation to the proposal to write to the Executive.

In response, the Director of Health and Community advised that no response had been received to date and she would follow up on the matter.

Councillor Harkin stated that whilst he appreciated the Chair's comments regarding the additional funding from the Minister for Communities to help those in need, he expressed dismay that taxi drivers throughout the city and district were living in poverty.

Councillor Harkin Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

That Council is alarmed at reports that Taxi drivers have been put on the poverty line as a result of the pandemic. Council will write to Ministers for Infrastructure, Finance and Economy to request a meeting with their Department as soon as possible to raise our concerns regarding Taxi driver poverty.

The Chair stated that he wished to add his support to Councillor Harkin's proposal. He stated that he had continuously written to the Minister for Infrastructure regarding the ongoing problems on the £1,500 payment. He advised that a lot of drivers felt that they may not receive this payment due to taking a payment holiday on their taxi insurance. He stated that taxi drivers had been working up to 12 hour shifts for £35.00 and still had to pay rent and fuel costs and described the situation as worrying. He stated that the situation had to change as taxi drivers had been severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. He thanked Councillor Harkin for raising the matter.

Councillor Duffy welcomed the proposal by Councillor Harkin and his realisation of the plight of workers within the taxi industry at this time. She advised that Martina Anderson MLA, was working extremely hard on this particular issue and had pressurised the Minister for

Infrastructure to have the financial assistance scheme rolled out to workers within both the taxi and coach industries.

She advised that she had recently met with Ms Anderson MLA and a number of local taxi drivers and from the Belfast City Council area. She described the situation faced by taxi drivers as heart-breaking as some had earned just £9 over a 12-hour shift. She described the situation as absolutely disgraceful that no money had still not been paid to them, particularly in the run up to Christmas. She felt that action should have been taken by the Minister for Infrastructure months ago.

Councillor Farrell, in response to comments made by Councillor Duffy, stated that the reality was that the Minister for Infrastructure did not have the power to act on the matter months ago. He advised that the First and Deputy First Minister had supported this fact. He stated that Elected Representatives had been contacted by taxi drivers affected by the pandemic. However, he felt that it was disingenuous of Councillor Duffy to blame the Minister for Infrastructure when she did not have the power to act. He advised that once given that power, she acted swiftly to devise a scheme to assist taxi drivers. He stated that he fully supported the proposal to write to the Ministers for Finance and Economy. He requested that Councillor Duffy reflect on her comments aimed towards the Minister for Infrastructure.

Continuing, he noted that the Coronavirus Business Support Scheme administered by the Minister for the Economy, was aimed at people within supply chains of businesses affected by the pandemic. However, taxi drivers were unable to apply to the scheme which he described as ridiculous.

In response, Councillor Duffy stated that she did not feel the need to reflect on her comments. She noted that taxi drivers came under the umbrella of the Department for Infrastructure. She agreed that the Department for the Economy should have taken action months ago. She stated that the Minister for Infrastructure had the power to assist taxi drivers for quite a number of weeks, however they had yet to receive any financial assistance. Therefore, she would make no apology on the matter.

The Chair stated that as a taxi driver, his colleagues did not care where the help came from as long as they received assistance. He stated that they wanted and deserved answers. He stated that he concurred with the comments made by Councillor Farrell that the Minister for

Infrastructure had to wait until she received confirmation to act on the matter. However, he advised that taxi drivers had encountered a further barrier when applying for financial assistance as through the Covid Restrictions Business Support Scheme as the Minister for the Economy had indicated that as outlined in category B of the criteria, taxi drivers were not eligible to apply. He expressed his concern on the matter and stated that the process should be made easier for those wishing to apply for financial assistance.

HC223/20 Electromagnetic Fields from 5G Base Stations (HC203/20)

Councillor Farrell requested an update on the proposal made at the previous Committee meeting to have the masts tested.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing advised that correspondence had been sent to all of the schools on the matter. He noted that one of the schools had contacted OFCOM to request testing. He advised that in relation to the site at Strand Road, Council had submitted a request for testing at that area.

HC224/20 Mobile Phone Connectivity (HC195/20)

Alderman Hussey asked if any feedback had been received from the mobile internet providers in relation to the matter. He stated that Members had received numerous complaints on the issue of connectivity with mobile and internet.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that no feedback had been received from the mobile internet providers to date. However, he confirmed that he would follow up with colleagues within the Business and Culture Directorate to provide an update.

HC225/20 Pier at Newtownstewart (HC199/20)

Councillor Edwards requested an update on proposed works at the area.

In response, the Director of Health and Community advised that the pier at Newtownstewart was included within the report tabled for consideration later in the meeting. She advised that an internal meeting had taken place with the property team to consider requirements for the pier. She stated that further site visits were planned to be undertaken to also consider any additional works, such as ponding on the footpaths and wider requests for amenities. She

stated that recommendations would be collectively taken forward as a proposal, subject to the agreement of finances which will be presented later in the meeting.

HC226/20 Everybody Active 2020 Programme Year 4 2019/2020 (HC202/20)

Councillor Mooney referred to the EBA Programme and requested an update on the matter.

In response, the Head of Community Development and Leisure advised that no formal response regarding the request for funding had been received. However, Council had been informed over a period of time that funding would cease for that programme. Therefore, Officers were looking at alternative methods of funding to continue with an element of the Everybody Active Programmes and how to integrate the staff within Council's leisure and sport services.

HC227/20 Sunday Trading

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 for Members to consider a temporary extension of extended opening hours by large shops on a Sunday, while the coronavirus pandemic is in place.

Councillor Gallagher sought clarity regarding the details in the report. He noted that in 2017, Council took a decision regarding the Sunday trading for the Derry City area and expressed concern that Strabane Town was not included. He asked if the recommendation had included extended opening hours for shops throughout the entire city and district as it had not been stated within the report. He stated that it was important for shops outside the city to be supported at this time as the coronavirus pandemic had significantly impacted Strabane Town with jobs in jeopardy due to store closures during the lockdown periods.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing advised Councillor Gallagher that the recommendation related to the entire Council area and any requests received to date regarding extended opening hours also cover the entire Council area.

Councillor McHugh endorsed the recommendation within the report. He queried that if the recommendation was approved by Committee, would it be necessary for shop owners to wait until the minutes were

ratified at full Council on 17 December before the recommendation was implemented. He stated that a number of businesses were eager to have this implemented immediately and to delay it would have a further impact on trading, especially at this time of year.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing stated that requests were received during October and November on the matter. He advised that Council Officers had informed those businesses that had made the requests that they may continue with extended opening hours on a Sunday, subject to the approval of the recommendation by the Committee.

Councillor Mooney also endorsed the recommendation within the report. He welcomed the report and stated that it was important for Council to assist businesses and frontline workers as much as possible at this time.

Alderman Devenney stated that the DUP supported the recommendation within the report. He stated that it was important to support key workers and vulnerable people at this time.

The Committee

Recommended approval of a temporary extension of extended opening hours by large shops within the hours of 10am to 6pm with additional managed opening hours for key workers and vulnerable shoppers (where required), while the coronavirus pandemic is in place.

HC228/20 Update on the Public Conveniences Working Group

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 update Members on the considerations of the Public Conveniences Working Group and to seek approval to implement the recommendations of the working group in relation to future public convenience provision.

Councillor Edwards thanked the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing for the report. He stated that he had the pleasure of chairing the working group and felt that the pandemic should be used to consider what could be done in terms of future provision, such as

the expansion of the community toilet scheme. He referred to the community toilet scheme in Castlederg and stated that it this would be expanded by the installation of changing places toilets, similar to the facility at the Library in Strabane Town. He advised that it had also been proposed to install a further facility at Derg Valley Leisure Centre.

Continuing, he referred to the rental of portable toilets and advised that it had been agreed that Council continued to provide these where necessary. He endorsed the recommendations within the report.

Councillor McHugh also thanked the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing for his work in relation to this matter, which was very much appreciated. He welcomed the recommendation regarding the community toilet scheme. However, in terms of promoting the scheme, he felt that this could be improved upon. He stated that the community should be made more aware in areas where public conveniences were not available that the community toilet scheme was in operation and what businesses were included in the scheme. He hoped that the facility earmarked for Derg Valley Leisure Centre would be completed soon.

Alderman Hussey stated that as a Member of the Public Conveniences Working Group, he wished to extend his thanks to the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing and Officers for their continued work on this particular issue. He stated that he felt that it was important to let the public know that the community toilet scheme was in operation, particularly the businesses involved in the scheme and welcomed that this would be addressed. He suggested adequate signposting be put in place, to show where toilet facilities would be available. He referred to toilet provision in the Claudy area that had not been included in the report and asked what toilet provision was available at that location.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing advised that a business had signed up to the community toilet scheme within the Claudy area and that details would be available on Council's website.

Alderman Devenney welcomed the report and that toilet provision was being considered for the future. He stated that it was good news that Council would promote the community toilet scheme. He expressed concern that visitors to a particular area may not be aware that a community toilet scheme was in operation or of the businesses involved. He suggested that signage be placed at those businesses to inform people that they could use the toilet facilities at that particular location.

In response, the Head of Health and Community Wellbeing advised that in terms of the Community Toilet Scheme, the details were available on Council's website. He further advised that all businesses involved in the scheme had been supplied with a sticker to display on the premises. However, he noted that one of the recommendations from the working group was to consider signage and marketing going forward. He advised that Officers would take the matter under consideration.

Councillor Logue welcomed the recommendation for the Changing Places facility. She stated that she and her Party colleagues had worked on this scheme for quite some time. She welcomed the number of Changing Places facilities that would be available within the Council area. She suggested that such provision should also be incorporated into Council new builds to illustrate that Council was inclusive for everyone throughout the city and district.

The Committee

Recommended that Members endorse the recommendations of the Working Group within the report.

HC229/20 Brooke Park Bowling Green Portacabin

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 seek Members' approval for a proposed upgrade of the Brooke Park Bowling Pavilion.

Councillor Harkin thanked Officers for the report and their work over the past number of years on the matter. He stated that he had met regularly with users of the bowling green at Brooke Park. He described the bowling green as an intrinsic part of the community for over 100 years. He stated that the current structure had been in place for almost 40 years and was in a bad state of repair and was therefore, no longer adequate. He noted that there was an ongoing campaign to call for a proper upgrade to the facility which he felt should have been done as part of the regeneration project for Brooke Park. He stated that members of the club did not support the proposal for a partial upgrade and wanted Council to focus on building a proper brick built facility. He stated that members of the bowling club had planned to meet on Tuesday 15 December to call on Council to build a proper facility at Brooke Park.

Councillor Harkin Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Mooney

That Members reject the Officer's recommendation to accept Option 2. A further report including options will be brought to a forthcoming Committee meeting.

Council will use this time to engage with Bowling Green users and Brooke Park users during this time on the possible options.

Councillor Carr concurred with the sentiments expressed by Councillor Harkin on the matter. He stated that members of the bowling club had been promised a new facility for many years and this should have been undertaken during the refurbishment of Brooke Park. He described the recommendation as a further sticking plaster, adding that the condition of the facility was an embarrassment, as buckets had been placed in the building to catch rain water from a leaking roof. He stated that the bowling green was one of the best greens in Ireland and he paid tribute to the grounds maintenance team who have maintained it to such a high standard. Therefore, he felt that a proper facility was needed and asked that Officers take further consideration of the matter.

Alderman Hussey noted that a subsequent report to be presented later in the meeting, outlined the cost of the new structure at a cost of £200,000 in comparison to £180,000 replacement cost noted in this report. He stated that this illustrated that delays to the project would become more expensive. He stated that he had the privilege of playing on the bowling green at Brooke Park and that bowls was an extremely popular sport both indoor and outdoor and deserved as much attention as other elements within the sporting arena. He stated that funding may be available from Sport NI and from governing bodies and asked if Officers had approached them on the matter.

Councillor Mooney stated that when he was a school boy he had passed the bowling green every day and knew the area well. He stated that Brooke Park was a haven for those club users and would be happy to endorse Councillor Harkin's proposal, as he would like the matter to be deferred for further exploration and engagement with the relevant stakeholders.

Councillor Duffy stated that she had met with users of the bowling

green and that her colleague, Councillor Cooper had liaised with members of the bowling club over several years on this issue. She felt that Councillor Harkin's proposal was irresponsible at this point in terms of attempting to move things forward. She agreed that members of the bowling club needed a purpose built facility but the funding outlined in the report was the only available funding at this stage. She felt that there may be future options that could be built upon and therefore endorsed option 2 within the report. She advised that Councillor Cooper had arranged to meet with club members on Tuesday 15 December, to discuss the matter further.

Alderman Warke stated that his Party supported the proposal put forward by Councillor Harkin as they felt it was the best way forward on the matter.

The Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that all Members comments on the matter were taken on board. He advised that a further paper tabled for discussion later in the meeting, included some solutions that may be available. He stated that the purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval to provide assistance to the club in the short-term. He advised that the disadvantage of seeking the long term proposal, was that it would have to be presented to Council's Capital Working Group, where it would require the appointment of a design team, business case consultants, and would then be added to the capital list for prioritisation with all the other significant number of projects. He further advised that currently, those projects were prioritised by Council and with no appropriate funding in place would delay the project even further.

Continuing, he referred to Alderman Hussey's comments and advised that Officers had looked at funding opportunities in relation to the bowling facility at Brooke Park. He noted that government bodies and Sport NI currently did not have any funding available. He stated that Council currently received £800 per annum from the bowling club in terms of green fees. Therefore, he advised that whilst alternative funding streams were explored, costs would have to be met entirely from Council. He stated that Officers would be happy to engage with the capital team on the matter but advised that there may not be funding available as the project would have to be prioritised along with other capital projects.

The Chair asked Councillor Harkin if he wished to defer his proposal until later in the meeting.

Councillor Harkin advised that he could not support the recommendation within the report as constituents in Foyleside DEA which he represented had waited decades for a new facility at Brooke Park. He believed that there was a threat that if the proposal was rejected, that maybe no money would be earmarked to take it forward. He felt that the proposed option, to complete the refurbishment at a cost of £60,000 was unfair to users of the facility when other options may be available. Therefore, on this basis, he wished to proceed with his proposal.

Councillor Logue expressed her objections to the word 'threat' being used by the previous speaker. She felt that if the discussion had indicated that Councillor Harkin's proposal was approved, it would delay any progress regarding the facility and would be referred to the capital working group for further consideration as per his proposal. She felt that he should have raised the matter within the working group.

The Head of Community Development and Leisure advised that Council as property owners and facility managers carried out property inspections. Therefore, it had been agreed that work should be undertaken sooner rather than later at that facility. He advised that subject to finance, which would be outlined later in the meeting, a further option may be available. However, the proposal with regards to a permanent building would have to be referred to the capital team for progression. He stated that as Councillor Logue had highlighted, it would be brought before Members of the Capital Working Group to be included on their list of priorities

Councillor Ferguson asked for clarification regarding Councillor Harkin's proposal.

Councillor Harkin stated that he had proposed that Members do not accept the Officer's recommendation. He advised that this would subsequently result in the matter being referred back for further discussion and allow the opportunity for further options to be presented at a later date on how to take the matter forward.

Alderman Devenney expressed concern that if the matter was referred to the Capital Working Group, there would be no short term options available as there were currently a long list of projects to be considered. He suggested that Officers contact members of the

bowling club to clearly explain that if the matter was referred to the Capital Working Group there could be a lengthy delay in obtaining a new facility.

Councillor Gallagher stated that he had played bowls at Brooke Park for fundraising events and that, in the main it was a great facility. However, it was now passed its sell by date. He stated that he had engaged with Officers on the matter and emphasised the importance of consulting local residents and members of the bowling club on the matter. He concurred with Councillor Harkin's proposal. He suggested that the matter be deferred until January to allow engagement to take place with the user groups. He felt that Council should reinforce to the community any plans to build a permanent structure that would deliver for the needs of the local community.

Councillor Duffy concurred with comments made by Councillor Gallagher and would therefore support a deferral on the matter. She felt that rejecting the Officer recommendation would result in a further delay to the project. She stated that people had been working on this for years it was important that the matter be progressed rather than being considered at the Capital review group.

Councillor Harkin stated that he concurred with Councillor Gallagher's suggestion to defer the matter until next month as it would create a similar outcome to his proposal. He did not think it irresponsible to raise the matter as people had expressed their frustration over the past ten years that they did not have a proper facility at Brooke Park.

Councillor Duffy Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

That the matter be deferred to the January Committee meeting and that Council will use this time to engage with Bowling Green users and Brooke Park users during this time on the possible options.

The Head of Community Development and Leisure advised that within the later paper, options had been explored in relation to the bowling green. He advised that Officers had regularly met with users of the facility and the Chair and Secretary of the Bowling Club on the matter.

The Committee

Recommended That the matter be deferred to the

January Committee meeting and that Council will use this time to engage with Bowling Green users and Brooke Park users during this time on the possible options.

HC230/20 Boxing Hub and Sports Hall Provision at Melvin Sports Complex

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 appointment of consultants and fully integrated design team in relation to the development of a boxing hub and multi-purpose hall provision at Melvin Sports Complex.

Councillor R Barr stated that he was happy to endorse the recommendation within the report. He stated that he wished to congratulate Officers on their work which had progressed the process to stage three. He stated that this was a much needed facility that would provide sports provision to the Strabane area. He noted that boxing had always been a prominent sport in Strabane and only for the dedication of those involved in the sport, it would have fallen into decline. He stated that recently, Strabane had lost two of its most dedicated supporters of the sport, ex professional, Mr Eugene McGarrigle and his brother, former boxing coach, Mr John McGarrigle. He stated that the boxing fraternity in Strabane had kept the sport alive, working from cramped, dilapidated buildings over the past number of decades. He believed that the new facility would ensure the young people of the town could hone their talents in a purpose built facility.

Councillor Edwards echoed the sentiments expressed by the previous speaker and endorsed the recommendation within the report. He stated that an issue had been raised with him in terms of the location of the facility and asked for clarification on the matter.

Councillor McHugh on behalf of Sinn Féin welcomed the progression of the project and supported the recommendation within the report. He stated that he was in no doubt that it represented a further step towards Melvin Sports Complex becoming a state of the art facility and he felt it was good to see something that was once a concept becoming a reality. He stated that it would benefit not only the residents of Strabane Town but also further afield.

Councillor Gallagher stated that he concurred with the sentiments expressed with the previous speakers. He expressed his thanks to Council staff who had worked tirelessly on this project. He stated that Council Officers had identified opportunities within the current context on how to progress the project and that reaching stage 3 was an achievement. He stated that Melvin Sports Arena would become the jewel in the crown for the residents of Strabane Town.

Alderman Hussey also welcomed that the project was finally coming to fruition. He further welcomed that this particular sporting activity would be given a prime facility within the council area.

Alderman Devenney stated that his Party endorsed the recommendation within the report. He commended the Officers involved on their hard work on the project to bring it to fruition which would enhance the sporting fraternity around the Strabane area.

In response to a query by Councillor Edwards, the Head of Community Development and Leisure stated that the location of the facility had not yet been decided upon. He advised that a design team was in place to consider the various options. He added that being somewhat constrained by the site, a possible option could be at the MUGA pitch used for open play. He advised that the new multi-sport hub could accommodate other sporting activities and he stated that no user groups would be displaced as there would be adequate facilities to accommodate them.

The Committee

Recommended that Members endorse the current position including the progression of the necessary work to complete final process and stage 3 of Sport NI Multi Sports Programme.

HC231/20 Cycling Ireland – Regional Cycling Hubs

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 Cycling Ireland's initiative to create regional Cycling Hubs throughout Northern Ireland to promote cycling as an accessible and enjoyable pursuit for everyone.

Councillor Mooney thanked Officers for the report and welcomed that Cycling Ireland was establishing regional hubs throughout the city and district. He further welcomed that Foyle College was the prospective candidate for the hub in this district. He noted that Cycling Ireland had identified an alternative funding source and that Council Officers were assisting them with the funding application. He endorsed the recommendation within the report.

Alderman Hussey asked if engagement had taken place with existing cycling clubs throughout the Council area to establish if the proposed hubs were situated at suitable locations for cyclists.

In response, the Head of Community Development and Leisure advised that the governing body was leading on this project with the responsibility for developing the sport on the island. He stated that engagement had taken place with all of the relevant cycling clubs to identify where the majority of participants were located. It was subsequently identified Foyle College as a suitable venue. He advised that Cycling Ireland was also seeking Council approval to work with them and support them with any future funding bids and develop the sport going forward.

The Director of Health and Community further clarified that Cycling Ireland had made an application to Your School, Your Club, therefore the location must be a school. She advised that Cycling Ireland had approached Council, given difficulty in obtaining a partner for the programme. Therefore, they carried out their own consultation and returned with a project that Council could endorse due to the submission to that particular funding strand.

The Committee

Recommended that Members endorse the current position including further engagement by officers with Cycling Ireland with a view of securing external funding and bringing the programme to the district.

HC232/20 Department of Justice Draft Modern Slavery Strategy for Northern Ireland 2021/22: Draft Response to Consultation

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 seek Members' approval on a draft response to the Department of Justice Draft Modern Slavery Strategy for NI 2021-22 Consultation.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the draft response to the consultation.

HC233/20 Northern Ireland Assembly Criminal Justice (Committal Reform) Bill Draft Response to Consultation

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 seek Members' endorsement of a draft response to the NI Assembly Criminal Justice (Committal Reform) Bill Consultation.

The Committee

Recommended That Members approve the draft response to the consultation.

HC234/20 Advice Services

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 seek Members' approval for the reallocation of £22,293 for Advice Services funding to be reallocated to provide for additional Marketing costs and/or any additional hours identified as required as a result of the emergency response.

The Committee

Recommended that Members approve the reallocation of £22,293 to provide for additional Marketing costs and/or any additional hours identified as required and agreed by the three Advice Providers as a result of the emergency response.

HC235/20 Additional NI Executive Funding for Food Support

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 provide Members with details of the potential for an additional food support allocation following recent communication from the Department for Communities (DfC), in the wake of the announcement by the Northern Ireland Executive to allocate an additional £3.5m to DfC for Food support during 2020/2021. The report further sought Members' approval for proposals submitted by the Growth Partnerships and Food Banks subject to funding allocations from Department for Communities (DfC).

Councillor Burke welcomed the news announced by the Department for Communities (DfC). She expressed concern in relation to timescales to ensure that the money was allocated to help those in need within the local communities, in time for Christmas. She stated that everyone was aware of the pressures faced by the community groups to ensure that nobody was left struggling in the run up to Christmas. She stated that time was of the essence to ensure that those people in need were offered assistance in time for Christmas.

Councillor Burke Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Duffy

That In relation to section 4.2 Warm, Well and Connected programme and section 4.3 Volunteering programme within the report, that Members take a decision now to allow officers to go out immediately and engage with the DEA's on both programmes and get this money out on the ground as soon as possible.

In response, the Director of Health and Community advised that Officers had been working on a timeline to progress through the relevant processes as quickly as possible. She stated that it was Council's intention to advance funding as much as possible to the Local Growth Partnerships and Council's voluntary partnership organisations. However, the minutes from this meeting had to be ratified at Council on 17 December 2020. She stated that following ratification, processes were in place to immediately co-ordinate the funding.

The Head of Community Development and Leisure also advised that as Councillor Burke had highlighted, Council wished to get help and support to the most vulnerable in advance of the Christmas period. He

stated that the Officer team were currently working towards the funding being released on time and were comfortable that the resources would be allocated after Council approval. He stated that a further piece of due diligence was required in relation to vouchers and Officers were working closely with the Audit team in this regard. He stated that whilst the DfC provided to the funding, Council was responsible for the progression of the vouchers.

Councillor Burke appreciated the response from Council Officers and stated that whilst she understood the process, she expressed concern at the turnaround time from the Council meeting to have the funding distributed to the Local Growth Partnerships in a timely fashion. She asked if a decision could be made at Committee for Officers to commence the process rather than waiting until 17 December.

In response, the Director of Health and Community advised that Officers had engaged with the relevant organisations but no actual letter of offer could be issued before it went through Council's governance processes. However, the only delay may be in relation to the voucher scheme and what particular caveats they could be used for. She advised that although this was an ongoing process, she was content that Council was committed to the success of this scheme.

Councillor Ferguson welcomed the report and emphasised the importance of having the programme rolled out into the community as soon as possible. She stated that she also welcomed the allocation for additional staff to assist with capacity in rural areas as she had previously expressed concerns in this regard.

Alderman Devenney stated that the DUP welcomed the recommendations within the report. He stated that the funding was very much needed in light of the situation. He stated that the two major issues he had was with food poverty and fuel poverty. He stated that since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, food and fuel prices had increased. He stated that his Party supported the proposal from Councillor Burke as it was vitally important to have the funding allocated in time for Christmas. He commended Council Officers for all the hard work and for bringing the report forward.

Alderman Hussey asked if anyone had noted that UNISON on mainland UK had expressed severe concerns regarding the future of the school meals service. He suggested that Officers contact UNISON representatives in Northern Ireland to ask if similar concerns had been

noted for this area.

Alderman Devenney Proposed, Seconded by Councillor Edwards

That Officers contact representatives from UNISON NI to establish if concerns had been expressed regarding the future of the school meals service in Northern Ireland.

Alderman Warke stated that he fully supported the proposal as it was important that each child received school meals, particularly during this time. He stated that it was important to ensure that every child was fed when attending school.

Councillor Reilly concurred with the comments made by Alderman Hussey in regard to the school meals services. He stated that a number of Councillors had received a communication from UNISON on the matter and it was important to engage with them on this issue.

Members voted unanimously on the proposal

The Committee

Recommended that (i) that Members approve the following allocations, subject to Letter of Offer confirmation from Department for Communities, confirmation of Lead Partners from each of the Growth Partnerships who will receive the Letter of Offer in the respective DEA/DEAs: Ballyarnett £20040, Foyleside £20040, Moor £20040, Waterside/Faughan £38960, Strabane/Derg/Sperrin £64160, Foyle Food Bank £4000, Churches Vol Trust £10280, Apex Housing Association (Social Supermarket) £23012, Easilink £4500, Faughan/Derg/Sperrin (Meals on Wheels providers) £12,000. All DEAs (split to be agreed with all partnerships/Meals on Wheels providers) £17,968; (ii) Members approve the reallocation of funds as considered necessary to meet the

emergency situation within each of the Partnership allocations; (iii) Members approve that the £14,000 deficit for the Food Programme can be provided from the Tranche 3 allocation to Council and that in relation to the balance of funding from this programme, Officers work on the development of a connectivity programme, working with schools across the district in order to ensure that children were not deprived in relation to access to digital resources; (iv) Members approve that Officers work with DfC, Neighbourhood Renewal Groups and areas at risk identified as deemed eligible by DfC, to agree the allocation of funding for the Warm, Well and Connected Programme; (v) Members approve Officers to work with local stakeholders to design the delivery of the £55,000 to be allocated to the Council area by DfC in relation to the Volunteering Programme (vi) In relation to section 4.2 Warm, Well and Connected programme and section 4.3 Volunteering programme of the report, Members take a decision now to allow officers to go out immediately and engage with the DEA's on both programmes and get this money out on the ground as soon as possible and (vii) Officers contact representatives from UNISON NI to establish if concerns had been expressed regarding the future of the school meals service in Northern Ireland.

HC236/20 Six Month Progress Report: Health and Community Directorate Service Plan 2020/2021

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 provide Members with details of the six-month progress (April –September 2020) in terms of

delivery of the performance objectives associated with the Service Delivery Plan for the Health and Community Directorate for the year 2020/21.

Councillor Ferguson thanked the Director of Health and Community and Officer team for all their hard work. She stated that it had been a hard year, particularly with the closure of leisure services during the coronavirus pandemic. She welcomed that the team had attempted to re-invent services to continue to make them accessible to the public. She also referred to the community outreach programmes to tackle food poverty and isolation and mental health during the emergency period.

Councillor Reilly stated that he concurred wholeheartedly with the comments by the previous speaker regarding how this particular directorate within Council had undertaken so much work this year. He stated that it was not surprising that the work of the Director and the Officer team had been so busy adapting to changes in circumstances due to the pandemic. He stated that he fully endorsed the recommendation within the report and looked forward to working with the Director and the Officer team going forward.

Alderman Devenney commended the report and congratulated the Director and the Officer team on their sterling work in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Committee

Recommended That Members endorse the six-month progress report for the Health and Community Directorate.

Open for Information

HC237/20 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.

The Committee

Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

HC238/20 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.

The meeting went into Confidential Business.