

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 22 November 2018 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

**Chair:** Councillor McPeake

**Members Present:** Councillors Bateson, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Forde, Gildernew, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, Milne, Monteith, Mullen, Mulligan, J O'Neill, M Quinn, T Quinn, Reid, Robinson, J Shiels, Totten and Wilson

**Officers in Attendance:** Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure & Outdoor Recreation  
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property  
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure  
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications  
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services  
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

**Others in Attendance**                      **Agenda Item 4 – Deputation**  
**Representatives from Southern Health & Social Care Trust**

Shane Devlin, Chief Executive  
Aldrina Magwood, Director of Performance & Reform  
Paul Morgan, Director of Children & Young Peoples Services  
Melanie McClements, Director of Older People & Primary Care

**Representatives from Northern Health & Social Care Trust**

Dr Tony Stevens, Chief Executive  
Ms Jennifer Welsh, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Operations

The meeting commenced at 7pm

**C258/18      Apologies**

Councillor Ashton, Elattar, McAleer, Molloy and G Shiels

**C259/18      Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

**C260/18      Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake made reference to the Broadband Working Group meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November and requested that Council, together with

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, send a letter to the Department of Communities seeking an urgent meeting regarding the allocation of £150m funding set aside for rural broadband which is being distributed across the north as opposed to being concentrated in areas of significant broadband deficits. Members concurred.

**Resolved** That Council together with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council send a letter to Department of Communities seeking an urgent meeting regarding the allocation of £150m funding set aside for rural broad band which may be distributed across the north as opposed to concentrated in areas where there is significant broadband deficits.

**C261/18 Deputation – Northern Health & Social Care Trust and Southern Health & Social Care Trust**

The Chair welcomed to the meeting representatives from Northern Health & Social Care Trust and invited them to address the Council.

Dr Tony Stevens, Chief Executive and Ms Jennifer Welsh, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Operations delivered their presentation detailed at appendix one.

*Councillor Milne entered the meeting at 7.08pm*

The Chair welcomed representatives of the Southern Health & Social Care Trust and invited them to address the Council.

Mr Devlin introduced himself as the new Chief Executive and his team, and together they delivered the presentation detailed at appendix two.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake thanked both Trusts for their presentations and invite questions.

Councillor Monteith made reference to the presentations and stated that whilst they were 'lovely', they did not bear a reflection of the service the people in the district were experiencing. He stated there was no mention of emergency GP provision, threats on Loane House, lack of investment to Oakridge, no mention had been made of a medical hub for which Dungannon has been told they were first in the queue yet repeatedly other areas have received them. He referred to mental health services and atrocious waiting lists and the knowledge of the difficulty of retaining a psychiatrist in the area. He concluded his comments stating that he did not know which Health Service was being represented but it is not the one which was being delivered to the people of Dungannon town highlighting that there were 39 GPs in the Southern Trust area, one of which is in Dungannon town.

In response, Mr Devlin advised that GPs were not included in the presentation as the Southern Health and Social Care Trust did not have responsibility for them although they would work in partnership and that Ms McClements had been liaising with the Board in relation to the GP situation.

*Councillor Mulligan left the meeting at 7.41pm*

Ms McClements stated that the Trust was conscious of the current situation at Northland surgery in Dungannon and the previous closure of Dr Murty's surgery. She advised that the Health and Social Care Board would know by the end of November if they had applicants for Northland surgery and if not they would approach the Trust to see if they can provide a service like that at the Bannview Practice in Portadown.

Councillor Monteith sought a response on the other issues he had highlighted.

In response, Mr Devlin stated that there was no threat on services and that there was investment in a community care team.

With regard to the health hub Ms Magwood advised that the decisions on the hubs had been Ministerial and beyond their control but that following discussions with the Department in October, Ms McClements would now be the officer responsible in developing the business case for the proposed hub which was now top of the list. A meeting scheduled for 4 December was referenced and it was highlighted that four business cases would be up for consideration but although there was a strong business case it would be subject to funding but it was hoped that Dungannon would be next.

Councillor Monteith stressed that the hub had been discussed for some 25 years.

Mr Devlin referred to comments about Oakridge Social Education Centre and advised that he has been in post for six months and already had been involved in a number of meetings with regard to Oakridge. He stated that he had met with Members of Parliament in recent weeks and that Oakridge was now listed as priority.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to Northland Surgery stating that he had attended two meetings with the Trust regarding it one with Council and the other with his party and at both an assurance was given that there was parallel conversations and if the matter of securing GPs fell to the Trust how competent were they in securing them. Councillor Cuthbertson also referred to car parking at the Craigavon Hospital site stating that it was a disgrace as it was a nightmare to try to get parked.

Ms McClements referred to the GP situation at Northland surgery and advised there was ongoing discussions but it would be wrong to pre-empt outcomes at this stage. With regards to being competent with GP appointments Ms McClements stated that it would be a struggle but that some GPs prefer to be employed by the Trust and work 9-6 pm and not have to run the business element of a practise. Drawing on the experience from Bannview practise Ms McClements stated that the Trust had achieved a static workforce and it would be hoped, if required, this would happen at Northland.

In response to the comments on car parking Mr Devlin made reference to the Antrim hospital site and others that have introduced car parking charges which result in both staff and patients paying to park but the outcome was easier parking.

Councillor Cuddy stated that he was a patient at Northlands and since the news broke it had been a very unsettling situation especially for elderly people. He stated that a clear way forward was required and people needed to know what was happening. He referred to the situation in Portadown and advised that the UUP had looked at the model and

sought assurance that it would happen at the Northland surgery if GPs were not secured. He also stated that the situation at Northland and that of the former Dr Murty practise must be put forward in the business case for the proposed hub and stressed that people needed to be sure of medical care. Councillor Cuddy stated that the district was within an area the leadership of political parties was situated yet it was an area that was always left behind.

Councillor Mallaghan thanked the Trusts for their presentations and asked if there was any ambition for a 1-1 service. He referred to primary care centres in Newtownabbey and voiced his disappointment with regard to Cookstown which was further away from many medical services and would have been the fairer option. Councillor Mallaghan spoke of the vulnerable person hub scheduled to commence in January/February stating that it would be valuable. Speaking with regard to capital plans with Causeway and Antrim hospital and the ambition for additional bed space referring to the modular buildings which in 10 years would be removed for permanent build.

In response Dr Stevens stated that the decision on centres such as that in Newtownabbey ultimately is that of the Department not the Trust although they could argue on priority but stressed he was not happy that the Northern Trust only had one centre prioritised. He spoke also of the services in Whiteabbey and that of Ballymena and stated that the investment in Newtownabbey was welcome as the Trust could release real estate which would generate money to be invested back into services. Referring to priority areas he stated that Magherafelt arguable had a higher priority than that of Cookstown and that from a Northern Ireland perspective roads should be a high priority. He stressed that a strong case was being made for investment in the Northern part of Mid Ulster in the next wave of investment and that there was investment in the Westland site for a range of services.

Dr Steven's stated that he could not influence regional decisions as each Trust area would have their own views but that he would make a case for two or three medical care centres with Magherafelt being one of the areas.

With regard to temporary beds at Antrim hospital Dr Stevens stated that the hospital geographically was in the wrong place but it had to be lived with and that in the last ten years investment had went east and west and his challenge now was to attract investment for Mid Ulster to develop its services. Speaking of Antrim hospital he stated they required a women and children's centre, a midwifery led unit and whilst 72 beds were required they had been offered 24 in high quality sectional buildings and would have them in April. He stated his hope would be in the future to reuse the sectional buildings for something else but the focus now was to secure investment in Antrim and stressed the importance of politicians and Councils to support both Antrim and Craigavon hospitals. Dr Stevens highlighted the cataract surgery and stressed that services needed to be shifted from Derry and Belfast. Dr Stevens referred again to not being granted the 72 beds required for 4-5 years and to the fact that there was no Minister for Health and posed the question could Northern Ireland please have a government as decisions needed to be made.

Councillor McLean stated it was easy to be critical but it was important to recognise progress and advised that the services at the Magherafelt site was welcome. Regarding car parking at Antrim hospital he stated it had been painful but did prove to be correct

and that the colleagues in the Southern Trust had no option but to introduce charges as it was the lesser evil to pay for a space than not have it, he also concurred with Dr Stevens that a half a loaf was better than no loaf and welcomed the additional 24 beds. Councillor McLean also highlighted after care and issues regarding care packages.

*Councillor M Quinn left the meeting at 8.07 pm*

Councillor J Shiels referred to recent issues regarding breast cancer screening when only 11% of people had been seen within the 14 day guideline and stated that whilst the situation had now been rectified what was being done to ensure it did not happen in the future.

Councillor Wilson asked if there were any proposals to extend minor injuries in Magherafelt as if hours were extended it would ease pressures in A&E at Antrim. He advised he had been in A&E in Antrim hospital and it had been like a battlefield. He further asked how many Locums operate out of Causeway hospital.

Dr Steven's advised that he would like to invest more in minor injuries as it had huge potential referring to the excellent unit in Dungannon. He advised that the difficulty was in securing qualified nursing practitioners but that the Ambulance service pathway programme was doing excellent work for example visiting patients who had experienced falls at home.

*Councillor M Quinn returned to the meeting at 8.11pm*

In response to question regarding Locums Ms Welsh advised that there was one permanent consultant in the Emergency Department and three other long-term locums but that the Northern Trust was endeavouring to bring more permanency to the situation

With regard to breast cancer response times Ms Welsh stated that the summer months had been challenging when demand had outstripped capacity due to planned leave and sick leave. She advised if a woman was seen by her GP and cancer was suspected the plan was to have a triple assessment ie radiologist, pathologist and surgeon within 14 days but this had not been possible. She advised that clinically a longer wait would not make that much difference but it did make a huge difference psychologically for those waiting. Ms Welsh advised that some had to wait 44 days and others 62 but that clinically the cases had been prioritised and decisions had been correct as those but back had thankfully not had cancer. Ms Welsh advised that the service was back on course but that people were already working longer than their contract hours and that it was a known fact that there was not enough significant investment thus the capacity was not there. Ms Welsh also advised that during the busy period the Southern Trust had supported the Northern Trust.

Ms Welsh in response to questions regarding domiciliary care packages, nursing and care homes that this was a huge piece of work and that there was an ongoing struggle to secure staff as for too long this has not been a valued career. Ms Welsh stressed that there needed to be an increase in wages and that they had met with the Health and Social Care Board to make the roles more attractive. She advised that they continued to work with care providers but the area would continue to be challenging.

Councillor Kearney suggested that Members visit facilities discussed instead of waiting for another 12 months for an update.

In response Dr Steven's stated he would be delighted for such visits to take place.

*Councillor Burton declared an interest in Agewell Service*

Councillor Burton welcomed investment in the Agewell Service. The Councillor then spoke of care packages stating that whilst the outcome of assessments was being awaited beds were being blocked and thus she shared the concerns highlighted by Councillor Monteith in relation to Loane House its security and long-term investment plans. Councillor Burton also spoke of the former South Tyrone Hospital forum which had previously lobbied for the minor injuries unit and other services yet the public had walked away from it as it had been felt that the Trust had used it as a bench mark that they had met with the community. Councillor Burton highlighted the frustrations of lack of services and stressed that members were passionate about the services in the district.

Councillor Clarke stated that the presentations whilst illuminating were worrying and that he welcomed any proposed services. He stressed that his big concern was that the North had a big pond with a river running south to north, two acute hospitals positioned to the east side of it geographically and that west of the line Mid Ulster is heading towards a population of 160k and that the positioning of acute hospitals was wrong, highlighting Antrim in particular. He advised that he lived on the worst roads in the country an hour from South West, Craigavon, Antrim and Altnagalvin and emphasised that acute services in the Mid Ulster region needed to be addressed. He highlighted that due to the roads Mid Ulster had the worst ambulance response times and the highest number of calls for the air ambulance and that the region may as well be an island in the Atlantic Ocean. Councillor Clarke stressed that deficits in services needed to be addressed west of the Bann as the area was underserved.

Councillor S McGuigan spoke of the proposed hub for Dungannon and stated that the current South Tyrone Hospital site would not have sufficient carparking facilities if the hub services was allocated to it and asked was there any thought given to an alternative site. He also questioned GP buy in to any proposed hub given that many had their own premises and perhaps mortgages on same.

In response, Ms Magwood advised that the issues raised would be addressed in the business case with all benefits and options both financial and nonfinancial would be considered. She also stressed that in relation to primary care interface opportunities and options that the Trust was very much at the start of the journey. Referring to the former hospital forum she advised she had worked with it in the past.

Mr Devlin referred to the engagement with the community in Newry and advised that the Southern Trust would be more than happy to mirror what happened and would be delighted to work with Council on a health and care forum.

Ms McClement assured Members that Loane House was valued by the Trust and was a highly respected rehabilitation unit offering a high quality service. She advised there was ongoing issues with regard to medical cover but that there was a relationship with the out of hours GP service but that other facilities was being looked at. Ms McClement also

made reference to the day hospital but advised that strategically the best place for people was in their own home and other paths were interim options.

Dr Stevens spoke at length regarding the positioning of Antrim hospital and what would happen if hospitals could be moved but stressed the reality was that it would not happen. In an ideal world the hospitals would all be positioned around the lough but as this would not happen the focus needed to be on road improvements. He advised that since improvements on the Frosses Road journey times had improved by 15-20 minutes and since building new hospitals and relocating existing would not be feasible roads could be fixed.

*Councillors Reid and McEldowney left the meeting at 8.40pm*

In response to Councillor Kearney's request for site visits Dr Stevens stated he would be delighted to host same.

The Chair Councillor McPeake thanked everyone for their contributions and closed discussion.

**C262/18      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted on "Open Business" at the Council meeting held on Thursday 25 October 2018**

Proposed by Councillor Gillespie  
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 25 October 2018 (C235/18 – C250/18 and (C257/18) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

**C263/18      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 6 November 2018**

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Robison and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 6 November 2018 (P138/18 – P142/18 and P147/18) transacted in "Open Business" having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

*Councillors Burton and Gildernew declared an interest in PR225/18 Brantry Forest Development Project MUDC and DAERA*

**C264/18      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Thursday 8 November 2018**

Councillor Burton drew attention to PR225/18 *Brantry Forest Development Project MUDC and DAERA* and sought clarity regarding the establishment of community partnership agreement for sustainable management solutions as detailed at point (d) of the recommendation to Council. The Councillor also drew attention to the fact that the only source of heating was to light a fire from which the smoke tended to blow back into the room and asked, if for example, a potbelly stove could be installed as part of the project.

In response the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that a small amount of money would be set aside for a service level agreement regarding the maintenance of the building and that part of the project incorporated looking at the building itself.

Councillor S McGuigan drew attention to PR230/18 Lease and Licence of Lands at Knockmany Forest from DAERA/Forest Service and asked how flexible the Service Level Agreement could be as potential people tended to live a distance from Knockmany.

In response the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that the Head of Parks was currently working with community groups in relation to the Service Level Agreement.

*Councillor McEldowney returned to the meeting at 8.45pm*

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 8 November 2018 (PR220/18 – PR232/18 and PR242/18) transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C265/18 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 November 2018**

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 13 November 2018 (E305 – E328/18 and E341/18) transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

*Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 8.45pm*

**C266/18 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 15 November 2018**

Councillor Burton drew attention to D212/18 Aughnacloy Changing Room Reallocation and sought an amendment to point 3 of the resolve to read - *That it be recommended to*



*Policy and Resources Committee that Council agrees to fund the complete works at a Cost of circa £45,000.* The Councillor advised that there had been discussion at the meeting regarding the changing rooms and stressed that there was a state of the art facility and that the changing rooms were not as they should be. Councillors Monteith and McNamee concurred with the amendment.

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That the minute be amended at point 3 of the resolve to read - That it be recommended to Policy and Resources Committee that Council agrees to fund the complete works at a Cost of circa £45,000.

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 15 November 2018 (D205/18 – D219/18 and D225/18) transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

*Councillor Mullen left the meeting at 8.46pm*

## **C267/18 Conferences, Seminars and Training – Attendance by Members**

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

### **(i) Conference & Seminars – Attendance by Members**

- ***ICBAN: The Future of Cross-Border Cooperation – ‘Border Compass’***
  - Slieve Russell Hotel in Ballyconnell, County Cavan
  - Friday 30 November 2018, 9.45 am – 1.00 pm
  - Conference fee: nil, travel & subsistence
  - Councillors S McGuigan, Councillor McAleer to attend
- ***Co-operation Ireland All Island Local Authority Forum, Study Visit to Seamus Heaney HomePlace***
  - Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy
  - Wednesday 28 November 2018, 9.30 am
  - Conference fee: nil, travel & subsistence

The Head of Democratic Services drew particular attention to the aforementioned conference taking place on Wednesday 28 November advising that Members could still attend should they wish to do so.

### **(ii) Member Training Requests**

- **Irish Class (Beginners)**
  - Burnavon Arts & Culture Centre
  - Commencing 22 January 2019 10am -11.30am
  - Fee £30, travel & subsistence
  - Councillor N Doris to attend

**(iii) Officer Approvals**

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee
Global Goals Local Action Conference	23/11/18	3	Bangor	No
<b>Retrospective</b>				
Global Goals Local Action Conference	10/11/18	1	Craigavon	£25

*Councillor T Quinn left the meeting at 8.52 pm*

Proposed by Councillor Gillespie  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved:** That the attendance of Members and Officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees.

**C268/18 Civic Recognition Requests**

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated council policy.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor McGinley and

**Resolved:** That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report.

**Matters for Information**

**C269/18 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council**

Members noted previously circulated report on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council since the last meeting of the Council.

**Resolved** That Council note the consultations within the Consultations Report.

**C270/18 Correspondence to Council – November 2018**

The previously circulated report to update the Council on correspondence received from three organisations presented to Council:

- Permanent Secretary, Department of Health
- Conradh na Gaeilge
- Water & Drainage Division, Department for Infrastructure
- Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Councillor S McGuigan drew attention to the letter received from Conradh na Gaeilge and stated that Council should engage with and encourage the local community to showcase their celebration of Irish within the dates of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2019.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake stated that the request would be referred to the Bilingual Working Group.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That

- (i) the request of Conradh na Gaeilge that Council should engage with and encourage the local community to showcase their celebration of Irish within the dates of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2019 be referred to the bi-lingual working group to progress; and
- (ii) Council note correspondence received.

#### **C271/18 Notice of Motion**

Councillor Mallaghan referred to the motion he wished to move as undernoted:

“This Council notes that the Belfast Trust are struggling to recruit a Paediatric Pathologist. This Council urges the Permanent Secretary of Health to approach this issue on an All Island basis. This would reduce the already enormous burden from parents suffering from bereavement. The process of carrying out a Post Mortem should be done sensitively and swiftly so a family can get the answers they need from professionals. By using services in England this would prolong this. This Council urges that arrangements be made with the health service in Dublin.”

Councillor Mallaghan advised that the situation had occurred partly due to retirements and now the final paediatric pathologists will cease carrying out the role in February 2019.

He also advised that since submitting the motion he had learned that the NHS has already approached the Health service in the south who have 5 pathologists with this expertise and that they are expecting retirements and end of service for other reasons in the near future so thus they would have no capacity to take on additional cases. He also advised that an agreement has been put in place with Alder Hay hospital in Liverpool to prioritise cases from the North but that they did not have the capacity to fly the service in.

Councillor Mallaghan sought permission to amend the motion to read

*“This Council notes that the Belfast Trust are struggling to recruit a Paediatric Pathologist. This Council urges the Permanent Secretary of Health to approach this issue on an All Island basis. This would reduce the already enormous burden from parents suffering from bereavement. The process of carrying out a Post Mortem should be done sensitively and swiftly so a family can get the answers they need from professionals. By using services in England this would prolong this. This Council urges that arrangements be made with the health service in Dublin and further that the health service both north and south explore the possibility of a joint recruitment exercise so that the service can be provided on an all island basis on the island of Ireland”.*

Councillor McGinley seconded the amended motion.

Councillor Wilson stated that the situation was despicable and one that everyone would be united in opposition against. He stated that the loss of a young child is the hardest thing anyone could ever have to endure and whilst sadly some deaths were anticipated others come out of nowhere with an unimaginable force of shock and drama in the midst of which a doctor has to advise if a post mortem is to be carried out a child's body must be flown to England for an uncertain period of time. He advised that even if a parent could go with the child they were leaving behind a wider support network of family and friends when they are most needed the alternative never knowing what caused the death of your child a decision you may live to regret. Councillor Wilson stressed that the situation was outrageous.

Councillor Wilson posed a number of questions regarding the motion such as; Why only urge the Department to do one thing? Why not request that a doctor is flown in so many days a week? Why not tell the Department for Health that the situation is not good enough and should not have been allowed to get to this stage? Councillor Wilson stressed that the situation was far too serious to meddle with words and said that the Ulster Unionist Party would support the motion and would not oppose an all Island solution if it would help grieving parents but emphasised that all options should be looked at. He did voice caution in that All Island solutions were not always perfect referring to the paediatric cardiac services which following withdrawal from same at Belfast was disastrous for the first few years as the decision was made prior to capacity becoming available at the Children's Hospital in Dublin resulting in ill vulnerable children having to go to England for surgery and families being split.

Councillor Wilson also stated that the coldness of the announcement of the ending of paediatric post-mortems in Belfast was particularly bad with no one taking accountability or showing any sense of empathy and now parents will shortly be left dealing with the consequences of it. Councillor Wilson stated that he wondered if there was a Health Minister in the country would the announcement really have been made at all and would a Minister really have stood back and allowed the situation to get so serious and then still do nothing whenever the Trust said they were just ending the service? He stressed that the Minister would have been called to the Stormont chamber and held to account for it but since there was not Minister and an Assembly that doesn't meet it had happened. Councillor Wilson concluded stating that if an Assembly and Executive could not be restored that the inapt Secretary of State takes action should it be putting the wheels in

motion for introducing direct rule as public services simply could not be allowed to drift any longer.

Councillor Monteith stated that it was clear that possibilities had been explored and declared his support for the motion saying that everyone has known someone who has experienced the horror of the death of a child, an experience which has lifelong impact on well being and now this decision further traumatises people in the midst of their worst nightmare. He further stated that people in England have no comprehension of how funerals are dealt with in Ireland where it is custom that a person's funeral is within two or three days of their death not three or four weeks as is the custom and practise in England. Thus if the post mortem is in England what sort of impact will this have! Councillor Monteith stated that the decision highlights the aloofness of the health service and that Council should do whatever it can to alleviate the situation. He stated that if recruitment was the issue higher incentives were required and that the message needed to be clear that such practises were not in the name of Council.

Councillor Kearney stated that there is nothing in life as painful as the loss of a child and the loss of this service here means that both deceased children and babies will need to be transported to England if parents or the Coroner needs answers as to the cause of death.

He stated that post-mortems provide vital information, particularly for families with other children whose health could potentially be at risk to an underlying condition, knowledge which is also invaluable to HealthCare Professionals. He stated that the Congenital Heart Disease Network is a shining example of an All-Ireland health service and that it is welcome news that the network at Our Lady's Hospital Dublin has received further funding to develop its services by adding to a four-bed extension to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit. He emphasised that the network has meant that children's heart surgery can be carried out in Dublin rather than families having to travel across the water for life-saving surgery. Councillor Kearney stressed that it is imperative that the two Departments of Health, both North and South, continue to work together in the interests of patients, to devise similar plans to ensure that infant post-mortems can be carried out here at home in Ireland. Councillor Kearney said that from contact with Mark H Durkin MLA that Mr Pengelly has indicated that alternative Paediatric Pathology solutions are being explored, including a cross-border option, as well as the possibility of using new emerging technologies. He also advised that the SDLP was awaiting a response from ROI Health Minister Simon Harris TD, having written to him underlining the benefits of collaboration on this issue. Councillor Kearney stated that the SDLP supported the motion.

Councillor McLean concurred with the concern regarding the situation which is occurring from the declining number of professionals available and stated that the DUP would not oppose the motion.

Councillor McEldowney supported the motion and spoke with emotion concerning the stillbirth of her grandson in October 2017 and how her daughter had clung to her child of two in the days following the death. Councillor McEldowney stressed the importance of being with family at such a time and stressed her support to Councillor Mallaghan in moving the motion.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake put the aforementioned amendment to the meeting

The amendment was accepted unanimously.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake put the amended motion to the meeting

The motion was unanimously agreed.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake declared the motion carried.

Councillor Mallaghan thanked all parties for their support and reflecting on the debate advised in relation to the suggestion of flying in the service the information available had been that this was not an option.

*The press and public left the meeting at 8.55pm*

### **Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor Burton

Seconded by Councillor McGinley and

**Resolved:** That items C272/18 – C282/18 be taken as confidential business.

#### **Matters for Decision**

- (i) Council Meeting Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 25 October 2018
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 6 November 2018
- (iii) Policy & Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 8 November 2018
- (iv) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 13 November 2018
- (v) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 15 November 2018
- (vi) Fivemiletown Capital Programme

#### **Documents for Sealing**

- (i) Documents for Sealing: Invest NI Letter of Offer regarding Mid Ulster Tender Ready Programme
- (ii) Document for Sealing: Invest NI Letter of Offer: Digital First Programme
- (iii) Document for Sealing: Collaborative Agreement: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Women in Business
- (iv) Document for Sealing: 'Lease of Lands alongside the River Bann, Portglenone between William Baxter Chesney and Mid Ulster District Council'

- (v) Document for Sealing: 'Lease of Lands at Davagh Forest between Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs'

**C283/18      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.12pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_