

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 28 November 2019 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair Councillor Kearney

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Bell, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Corry, Cuddy, Cuthbertson (7.15pm), Doris, Elattar, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, O'Neill, Quinn, Robinson, Totten and Wilson

Officers in Attendance Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
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 **Deputation: Northern Health & Social Services Trust & Southern Health & Social Services Trust**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

C225/19 Apologies

Councillors Forde, Glasgow, Gildernew and Milne

C226/19 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Molloy declared an interest D203/19 Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce-Up Scheme

C227/19 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Kearney commended Council staff on the recent fireworks displays and the Christmas lights switch on events which had taken place. He also commended economic development staff on the Enterprise Week events which had taken place in 27 locations.

Councillor Kerr spoke of the selfless act of former Coalisland resident Peter McMahon who now residing in Australia had organised a convoy of lorries to transport water during recent bushfires.

Resolved That the Chair write to Peter McMahon who organised a convoy of trucks to transport water from Sydney to Armidale in New South Wales to assist with tackling bushfires.

Councillor McAleer spoke of the motion carried by Council in June 2018 appealing to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Health to make the drug Orkambi available to cystic fibrosis patients in Northern Ireland. Councillor McAleer stated that this had now happened and thanked Members for supporting the motion.

Resolved That Council to write to Mr Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health to express appreciation of the recent decision that people with Cystic Fibrosis in Northern Ireland will have access to drug Orkambi

Councillor Oneill condemned the recent robbery at the Mace shop in Newtownkelly and appealed to anyone with information to come forward and help bring those who had stolen thousands of pounds of produce from hardworking people before the courts. He appealed to the community to check on elderly neighbours and to leave a light on when going out to help deter further robberies.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to an email received advising that Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) had postponed the planned workshop with Council for the second time. He stated that he disputed the reason for the postponement cited as purdah due to the forthcoming elections and highlighted that the date of 29 November has been agreed after the announcement of the election. He further advised that the workshop had been requested at the September Council meeting and it now seems unlikely that the revised date would be prior to Christmas yet the housing crisis continued to escalate.

Councillor Elattar stated that as Council's representative on the Housing Council she would also highlight the matter at the meeting scheduled for early December.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That

- (i) Council to write to the NIHE to advise that 'Purdah' was not a valid reason for postponing the workshop scheduled to take place on Friday 29 November 2019
- (ii) Councillor Elattar raise the matter at the Housing Council meeting on 5 December 2019

C228/19 Deputation: Northern Health & Social Services Trust & Southern Health & Social Services Trust

The Chair, Councillor Kearney welcomed representatives of the Northern and Southern Health & Social Care Trusts to the meeting.

The Chief Executive of the NHSCT, Dr Stevens spoke of current issues such as the industrial action and the issues over the past year being conscious of the Greenvale tragedy, the improved roads between Antrim, Magherafelt and Cookstown, the difficulties in primary care which the SHSCT had found particularly challenging and although not directly responsible for impacted their respective services. Dr Stevens spoke of a new way of working and delivered a presentation entitled 'A Prototype for an Integrated Care System'.

Councillor Cuthbertson entered the meeting at 7.17 pm

Councillor Monteith left the meeting at 7.25 pm returning at 7.27 pm

Dr Stevens concluded the presentation emphasising that the pilot programme of anticipatory care service trialled in the Causeway locality which had proved successful would now be rolled out across the province and again highlighted that partnership at all levels was the way forward.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney acknowledged Dr Stevens enthusiasm for the scheme and sought Members comments.

Councillor McLean commended Dr Stevens on the presentation, his honesty and integrity in delivering facts whether or not they will be liked. He stated that there was a clear line of questioning appearing such as how does NIHE and other agencies to play their part. He commended Dr Stevens on thinking outside the box and carrying out the pilot scheme within his trust area. He stated there was many issues in relation to health such as the strike action and waiting lists.

Councillor Wilson thanked Dr Stevens for the informative presentation and asked where the general practitioners were sourced to visit the nursing homes. He stated that general practitioners were like hens teeth and that if they were already in a practise how did they get a day out of their daily surgeries to attend.

Dr Stevens drew attention to the statistics in relation to the pilot scheme and stated there had been agreement amongst practises as GP visits to homes are time consuming thus the scheme had been attractive to them. He highlighted that the number of home visits had been halved, hospital bed times had been reduced and it would be hoped in the future to lessen the time of the GP and have a team to deliver the service to include for example district nurses, pharmacists and podiatrist but he did accept the point it currently added to the resilience of practices.

Councillor Molloy welcomed the presentation but stated that whilst good it was not a new way of thinking. He spoke of the frustration of GPs who end up like managers and stated that whilst there was talk of 'buying' the NHS it was already happening as

some doctors were both paid more and doing more private work on NHS properties than actual NHS work. He stated that the whole service needed review.

Councillor Mallaghan reiterated that it was not the first time such projects had been mentioned but it was the first pilot. He highlighted the need for effective community planning and commented on the success of the pilot and the significant savings highlighted. He also mentioned other services such as a vulnerable persons' hub, community pharmacist and primary care services and wished the Trust well with the roll out of further schemes.

Councillor M Quinn left the meeting at 7.45 pm

Mr Devlin stated that as a group of Trust Chief Executives they had agreed the pilot and clearly seen it as a way forward of planning for the population stating that the Chief Executives and Permanent Secretary were committed to it. He further stated that NIHE together with the Education Authority for Northern Ireland were involved in community planning and the pilot scheme placed health and social care in the one place.

Councillor McAleer extended her thanks for the presentation and stated that she welcomed anything which addresses the needs of an ever growing population emphasising that without good healthcare all would fall apart.

Councillor McLean asked how the schemes could be progressed, what the next steps were and was there a process in place.

Dr Stevens stated that there had been conversations involving the Council Chief Executive to join an area network, he highlighted the need to build a movement to create momentum and that if effective all agencies would want to be on board highlighting the community plan and schemes such as ageing well initiative and delivering for 0-4 year olds.

Councillor Quinn returned to the meeting at 7.50pm

Dr Stevens spoke of how council could actively engage and flex the community and voluntary sector to think afresh and plan measureable objectives. He highlighted statistics of one half of older people dying in acute hospital beds rather than at home and how a strain in services meant they were dying in open wards as no side-rooms were available. He spoke of one case where an elderly lady passed away in an accident and emergency department and the grief felt by staff who were unable to give her a dignified death. Dr Stevens encouraged fresh thinking encouraging better outcomes, better education and spoke of a recent event which had showcased a great arts performance by people suffering a range of problems for example a choir for people with dementia, that is doing something to keep people out of hospital.

He said they had a target for reducing bed days and less people dying in hospital but they needed to promote dementia support, by adding more events, bringing rural community together, respectful dying and good home care.

Dr Stevens stated the Trusts would provide resource for open discussion and stated that what they wanted was for the community to highlight what was important to help frame the objectives and that a collective view would lead to potential change.

Councillor McFlynn commended the report and hoped that the whole plan would be taken on board. Councillor McFlynn also extended thanks to the staff who deliver current services.

Councillor Monteith welcomed the presentation and the integrated approach to care. He spoke of two issues raised the previous year the GP hub for Dungannon which last year was reported to be the top of the list and a new build for Oakridge which was a priority and asked what had changed and when would the projects come to fruition.

Councillor Black thanked the Trust for the presentation and asked if the project was a testing of the Bengoa Report or did it sit outside its remit.

Councillor S McPeake welcomed the announcement for improved services in Magherafelt, the Accident and Emergency and hub for minor injuries. He welcomed the presentation and stated that he sat on community planning and could see dividends beginning to emerge and highlighted social care as critical in particular care packages and the pressures associated with them.

Dr Stevens stated that the current scheme piloted was part of the Bengoa Report and that the project had been a community and population approach based on understanding health needs. He stressed the need for all departments to work together and be strategically consistent.

Mr Devlin in response to Councillor Monteith's query on GP Hub and Oakridge new build stated that the projects were still priority. He advised that the Department had asked individual trusts for their requirements for the next ten years and he had highlighted both projects. He acknowledged that Oakridge had been promised for a long time and advised that it was part of the conversations in relation to capital projects. Mr Devlin stated that he would share the outcomes widely once they were known and advised that he had had Members of Parliament and the Department visiting Oakridge site to highlight the need.

Councillor Monteith stated that Council should write in support of both projects highlighting in particular that Oakridge was a disgrace in 2019 and had been a disgrace 25 years ago.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved Council to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Health to support Capital Investment bid for Oakridge SEC and a GP Hub in Dungannon

Mr Devlin stated that he would value this support and in response to Councillor Cuddy's question he stated that whenever he received the report back from the

Department he would advise the Council on the outcome but stressed that the reality was there was not much capital in the budget but the Southern Trust was fighting hard to get its fair share.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked the representatives of the two Trusts for their attendance following which they left the meeting at 8.05pm

Councillor Wilson asked why the Southern Trust had not made a presentation.

In response the Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that they had agreed to have the one.

Councillor Monteith stated it was disappointing that the Southern Trust had not provided an update on its work over the last twelve months and stated the council had an overview and scrutiny role. He requested that Council write to the Southern Trust to request a workshop or presentation with all Councillors.

Resolved That Council seek a workshop/presentation with the Southern Health & Social Care Trust

Matters for Decision

C229/19 Council Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 24 October 2019

Councillor McGinley requested an amendment to minute C209/19 Notice of Motion 2nd paragraph page 14 *Sinn Féin* be amended to read *Council*

Councillor Kerr drew attention to the Mid Ulster Business Awards and commended the Mid Ulster Mail in response to responding positively to the request that the Mid Ulster Business Awards disassociate from Dalradian Company.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

That Council write to the Mid Ulster Mail and commend them in disassociating the Mid Ulster Business Awards from the Dalradian Company.

Councillor Monteith referred to minute reference C239/17 when it was resolved that '*Council investigate events and their sponsors prior to agreeing contributions of either support or sponsorship*'. He stated if this had been carried through Council would not have found itself in the situation and that this should not happen in the future.

Councillor McGinley concurred with the proposal but stated that he was disappointed that the Mid Ulster Mail had not made a public announcement of the decision.

Councillor Kerr agreed and stated that perhaps the letter should include the point that they should not have relied on Councillors to spread the word.

In response the Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that Council should just 'cross the first bridge' and send a letter commending the decision.

Councillor Kerr stated it was constructive input.

Resolved That Council write to the Mid Ulster Mail and commend them in disassociating the Mid Ulster Business Awards from the Dalradian Company.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 24 October 2019 (C194/19 – C224/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted, subject to the forgoing amendment

C230/19 Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 5 November 2019

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 5 November 2019 (P131/19 – P142/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C231/19 Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 7 November 2019

Councillor Wilson drew attention to *PR190/19 Member Support on Member IT Allocation*.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the update on Member Support on Member IT Allocation be forwarded to all Members

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 7 November 2019 (PR186/19 – PR212/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C232/19 Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 2019

Councillor McLean drew attention to E265/19 and sought clarity as to whether the policy was still draft as there was some slight changes in relation to time.

In response the Chief Executive clarified that the recommendation of the Environment Committee to Council was to approve the policy thus any amendments would need to be made.

Councillor McLean referred to opening times stating that many protestant church services were at 12 noon and thus if there was a funeral with a service in the home, then in the Church at 2 pm would be too restrictive and following consultation with funeral Undertakers they felt 3 pm would be a better. He stated he understood further consultation may be needed with trade unions with reference to the winter months when it would be dark earlier but sought an amendment to 3pm.

The Director of Environment and Property stated if it was the wish of Council the times could be changed.

Councillor Wilson stated that the full Council had not had sight of the proposed policy although included in the Environment Committee papers there had been amendments and said that there had been discussion around who lowers the coffin into the grave. He also added that he had received a number of complaints about dog fouling in Cookstown Cemetery and he was aware that there were similar issues in other cemeteries stating that dogs should be kept on lead and gravediggers should have the power to issue 'on the spot' fines for dog fouling.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney sought agreement for the amendment to opening hours.

Councillor McLean stated that he had been advised it was a draft document which would not be approved until February.

Councillor Wilson referred back to the issue of amendments to draft policies at committee level and Members approving at Council without having seen the final version of the document.

Councillor McGinley suggested that the Cemetery Administration and Management Update be referred back to committee.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that Members all have sight of the document at Committee. Councillor Wilson concurred but clarified that is the first version non committee Members do not see the final version and suggested that it should be an appendix to the minute.

Resolved That item *E265/19 Cemetery Administration and Management Update* – to be referred back to the Environment Committee for further discussions

Councillor Kerr drew attention to E269/14 bus shelters and expressed concern regarding the length of time it takes to process applications highlighting in particular the relocation of Cappagh bus shelter.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

That a meeting be set up with Translink regarding the bus shelter application process.

Councillor Mallaghan sought clarity on the new rules from the Department of Infrastructure stating that some are so stringent it is almost impossible to find a suitable location for a bus shelter.

Councillor Quinn concurred stating that he had encountered situations when 50 meters of road was required for a bus shelter to be considered. He stated that the Department for Infrastructure should be in attendance at the meeting proposed.

Councillor McGinley concurred and stated that perhaps a delegation could be invited to the Environment Committee which any Member could attend to discuss the issue.

Councillor Monteith stated that the Education Authority should also be involved and stated a workshop may be a better approach but all agencies needed to be at the table.

Resolved That Council to set up a meeting and invite Translink, Education Authority and Department for Infrastructure to discuss bus shelter applications

Councillor Graham left the meeting at 8.25 pm

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 12 November 2019 (E253/19 – E291/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C233/19 Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2019

Councillor McAleer drew attention to the Play Strategy and although pleased with achievements at Knockmany Forest to date she expressed her disappointment that it was outside the proposed five year plan for play areas. She stated that she was aware if more funding became available it may happen earlier but stated it would be better to complete what had been started.

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 8.26 pm

Councillor Burton concurred that Council should be endeavouring to identify funding and stated that she had lobbied for years for development of Knockmany Forest. Councillor Burton also said that facilities at US President Grants location should be upgraded as visitors from outside the district and even from America would be

visiting and given Council did not have a seaside location they needed to develop locations of interest thus all sources of funding should be explored.

Councillor Clarke returned to the meeting at 8.27 pm

The Chair Councillor Kearney stated that Knockmany Forest although listed as five years plus may be done sooner if money became available.

Councillor Burton commended staff on the work completed delivering village parks and play facilities through the rural development programme.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 14 November 2019 (D182/19 – D210/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C234/19 Conferences, Seminars & Training Report

Approval was sought 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) Member Approvals

- NILGA Conference, Exhibit & Gala Awards Dinner

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast – 20th February 2020

Two Free Places

Day Delegate, Conference Only - £99 (per person)

Day Delegate Including Awards Dinner - £145 (per person)

Local Government Awards Dinner Only £60

(ii) Officer Approvals

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/No)
Planning for Change: <i>Planning in Times of Change</i>	6 th Nov 2019	1	Derry	Yes
Changes & Trends in International VAT	11 th Nov 2019	1	London	Flights
Power of Walking Conference	14 th Nov 2019	1	Belfast	No

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan

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

C235/19 Requests for Civic Recognition

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, as detailed within the report.

Councillors requested amendments and additions as undernoted:

- Include Councillor Monteith and Quinn to Edendork Ladies Ulster Club Junior Championship
- N Nugent recommendation request amend to S McPeake to read D McPeake
- Cllr McGinley requested name to be added to two requests for Loughshore ABC, and that his name be added to letter requested for Moortown GAA and also his name be included in the letter forwarded to Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa GAC
- Councillor McKinney's name be added to Knockloughrim Primary School request

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That subject to the foregoing, approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report.

Matters for Information

C236/19 Correspondence

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council as outlined:

- The Director, Royal College of Nursing Northern Ireland
- Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne & Down DC
- Honours Secretariat, Department for Communities
- Private Secretary of the Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Irish Government
- Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Office (NIO)
- Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne & Down DC
- Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health

Councillor Mallaghan requested that Council respond to correspondence regarding welfare appeals.

Councillor Monteith concurred but in relation to the Appeals Service NI stated that Council should seek a meeting with the service to discuss suitable locations as the Court house in any town was not suitable.

Councillor Kerr concurred.

Resolved That Council

- (i) Correspondence from Royal College of Nursing NI that Council write to the RCN acknowledging comments
- (ii) Correspondence from Newry, Mourne & Down DC on early diagnosis of bowel and breast cancer – Council support the motion as requested
- (iii) Correspondence from Newry, Mourne & Down DC on Location of Welfare Appeals – council support the motion as requested and also seek a meeting with the Appeals Service NI to discuss.

In response to Councillor McGinley's enquiry the Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the date for the meeting with Dr Michael McBride was scheduled for Wednesday 8 January at 2.00pm.

Councillor Ashton drew attention to Correspondence from the Honours Secretariat, Department for Communities and suggested that an awareness session be arranged jointly with another Council. Councillor Burton concurred. Councillor Cuddy suggested a presentation for interested parties on same.

Resolved That Council to arrange awareness raising seminar for Councillors on the Honours Process

Councillor Black returned to the meeting at 8.37 pm

C237/19 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members noted the previously circulated report on Consultation notified to Mid Ulster District Council.

C238/19 Notice of Motion

Councillor Mallaghan stated he had had the opportunity to read how the block grant had been cut by the Tory government by £1billion since coming to power and then in recent years propped up by the DUP and with inflation factored in it would be nearer to £2billion. He stated that the value of the health service goes without saying and the commitment and ethos of staff speaks for itself and he would publicly extend his thanks to them.

Councillor Mallaghan highlighted that nurses pay across the Islands varies considerably stating that in the South it averages at £34K, £24.5k in Scotland, £24.2 k in England and Wales whilst here in the North it was £22.8 k thus the lowest and no mechanism to approach parity. Councillor Mallaghan spoke of a recent family experience in hospital when the level of care given had been amazing but he was

also struck by the high volume of agency nurses being used on wards. He applauded the media in the coverage of the week's activities highlighting the difficulties in the system, the plight of the nurses and stated that important conversations were required.

Councillor Mallaghan moved motion as undernoted:

“This Council supports the overwhelming response from Royal College of Nurses’ (RCN) ballot in favour of industrial action; and the decision of other Health and Social Care (HSC) Trade Unions-including UNISON and NIPSA – decision to ballot members for industrial action.

Health and Social Care workers are the systems greatest assets and they are entitled to fair pay and conditions. Over 7,000 non-medical vacancies – including 3,000 nursing posts vacancies – that currently exist within the HSC system are having a detrimental impact upon patient care and adding enormous pressure to the existing HSC workforce, who are doing everything they can to care for patients. Health and Social Care workers are taking action as they are no longer willing to see patients being denied the care to which they are entitled.

We call on the Permanent Secretary for Health to engage respectfully and meaningfully with Trade Union representatives on a pay deal.

Furthermore we call on this Council to convene an all-party meeting with the Trade Unions representing Health and Social Care Staff to hear directly the challenges they are facing and take such action therein to support staff and patient care at this time”.

Councillor Elattar seconded the motion.

Councillor Kerr supported the motion stating that it was in Council's interest to do all in its power to help medical staff and expressed concern on how the situation had got to this point stating that the strike action was an indictment to the misery staff feel. He emphasised that they were under resourced and working in a particularly stressful environment. He sent solidarity to the hospital staff, wished them well in their plight and stated he would do all he could to assist.

Councillor McAleer stated that nurses were so over stretched that they are simply unable to provide the level of care to patients and their families that they would want to provide. She highlighted that the RCN constantly raised concerns at all levels within the Health and Social Care System about inadequate workforce planning and its impact upon recruitment and retention. Councillor McAleer stated that there was no doubt this crisis had been entirely predictable as nurses have continually reported their concerns of inadequate staff levels in order to provide safe and effective care for patients. Speaking on the issue of pay the Councillor stated it was a central factor in the recruitment and retention of nurses and has directly helped to create the current nursing staffing crisis in Northern Ireland. Councillor McAleer stated that nurses in Northern Ireland were the lowest paid in the United Kingdom and was emphatic that the Health and Social Care Trusts and the Department for Health had

failed to address the pay inequality that exists due to their lack of progress in the pay discussions with the Health Trade Unions. Councillor McAleer stated that a Registered Nurse at the top of Band 5 in NI earns £797 a year less than their equivalents in England and Wales and £1427 a year less than their equivalent in Scotland. A Health Care Assistant at the top of Band 2 in NI earns £711 a year less than in England and Wales and £1706 a year less than their equivalent in Scotland. Councillor McAleer concluded that the SDLP would support the motion.

Councillor Ashton stated that the DUP supported the nurses stressing that there is a continual call to restore the NI Assembly and that her party would support fair pay for all health professionals.

Councillor Quinn stated that he had spent three years working in a health trust and thus saw at first-hand the level of vacancies and the number of agency staff required to fill wards to an acceptable level. He stated that it was 'scary' the number of nurses coming in from an agency not being familiar with practices and procedures. He further highlighted that employed nurses were working additional shifts for an agency.

Councillor Monteith supported the motion stating that the health service was at a point of collapse and any experience he had of the system was that it was crumbling and crumbling fast. He welcomed the change of policy by both Sinn Féin and the DUP and mentioned a letter written by Michelle O'Neill in August 2016 which endorsed the pay cap on public sector pay policy.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the Trusts presentations in recent years which focused on funding and the high number of vacant nurses posts. He also made mention of the fact that agencies sign up nurses at the end of their training and are then holding the trust to ransom to supply same. Councillor Cuddy highlighted statistics that there is a one in sixteen chance of a person in Northern Ireland being on a waiting list for over 12 months in comparison to one in forty-eight thousand in England. He stated that the fact that the Royal College of Nurses voted for strike action said it all and given that medical staff are signed up to wider NHS UK conditions is unfair highlighting that the decision had been opposed by the UUP at the time. He stressed that the UUP wanted to see the responsibility for health back to Westminster and for nurses pay to rise. He stated that Sinn Féin in opposing a Direct Rule Minister who could make decisions on things such as pay and conditions were treating people as pawns whilst waiting lists were increasing and the whole system was falling apart. Councillor Cuddy stated that the UUP would support the motion

Councillor Colvin added his support and emphasised that nurses do a lot of work they don't get paid for sometimes starting shifts at 8am and working to midnight and maybe back in again the next morning. He highlighted that often there was no lunch or relief breaks and emphasised that it was not just the money but the whole situation in its entirety was a disgrace.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney acknowledged comments and mentioned the length of current waiting lists.

Councillor Mallaghan thanked all members who spoke on the motion and keeping snide political remarks to a minimum. He stated that Council must be brave and get behind the Bengoa Report.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote on the motion.

FOR 35

AGAINST 0

C239/19 Notice of Motion

Councillor Kerr stated that the motion was self-explanatory and in speaking to blood donation staff he had attained some statistics in that there was 800 donations sessions per year, a fixed location in the City hospital and two teams who travel. He stated that only 6% of the actual population give blood meaning 94% did not. He stated that one person donating blood could save three lives and approximately 150 new blood donors were required on a weekly basis.

Councillor Kerr moved motion:

*That this Council, in the interests of all our residents resolves:
To promote blood donation
To set up a meeting with the Blood Donation Service to consult on how this vital service can be better promoted
To encourage employees and the wider public to donate
To offer the use of Council facilities for donation sessions
To write to sporting and community organisations to promote blood donation*

Councillor Monteith seconded the motion and told of the support campaign Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council had conducted in 2007 and thus another support campaign was long overdue. He suggested that Council pick a month each year to highlight support.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that the use of social media would also help.

Councillor Wilson supported the motion and stated that blood donation both saves and enhances lives and was used in the treatment of some cancers. He stated that he was one of the 6% who did give blood and not only did the action help the recipient but also assisted the donor.

Councillor Quinn stated that it was a vital service and that the Blood Donation Service goes regularly to Coalisland, Ardboe and Donaghmore and said Council should do all they could to support.

Councillor Molloy stated that he had donated blood that morning through his workplace and said that the service should be brought to where people where.

Councillor Quinn left the meeting at 8.52 pm

Councillor Burton speaking on behalf of the DUP said they would support the motion stating that no one knew when they themselves would need blood and highlighted that sometimes donors discovered they were for example anaemic themselves thus detecting health issues early. Councillor Burton stated that if Council facilities could be used for promotion it would be a positive action and Council could also partnership with agencies it worked with.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney also highlighted that the action would sit well with the community plan.

Councillor Kerr thanked all for their support and stated that the Blood Donation Service would be happy to present at a meeting and would be particularly interest in donors with rare blood groups such as 0 negative. He also stated that it was welcome that there was some donors within the chamber.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote.

FOR 35

AGAINST 0

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried.

C240/19 Notice of Motion

Councillor Corry moved motion as undernoted:

This Council will support the introduction of soft opt-out organ donation legislation here in the North which will follow the example led by the introduction of the same legislation in Wales (2015), Scotland and England (2020) and the calls from the Minister of Health in the South of Ireland, Simon Harris TD, for the same to be introduced here

Speaking on the motion Councillor Corry stated “As you can see, we here in the North are the only area across the Island of Ireland and Britain that isn’t working towards the introduction of soft opt out organ donation legislation. Soft opt out organ donation is a system where it is assumed everyone has given their consent to be an organ donor, unless otherwise stated. Currently, we only have the ‘opt in’ system. In the event of death with the soft opt out system, next of kin do have the final say whether or not organs are donated but I do believe it’s a conversation that we need to be having with our loved ones in terms of what our wishes are. Research shows that countries with a soft opt out system in place leads to a higher number of organ donations. I think now is the time for us as council to call for the introduction of this legislation here in the North.

And it’s not just a call for legislation to be introduced but for a high profiled communication and awareness raising strategy to begin pre and post introduction. It would also be a call for further investment in our health system to bring about the recruitment of specialist organ donation nurses and for further investment in our

intensive care units. Whilst this is a legislative issue which needs to be addressed if and when the institutions get up and running again, I'm asking that we, across all our parties encourage our members, support base and wider society to register themselves as organ donors in the absence of soft opt out legislation and begin to have those sensitive conversations. The significance of organ donation is that one organ donor could potentially save up to 9 lives. Here in the North, 45% of the population are registered organ donors. Figures also show that there are approximately 133 people waiting on the transplant list at this present time. Last year, unfortunately; 14 people died before they could get a transplant, including a young girl from Magherafelt, Aimee Brady who was 11 years old and tragically died waiting for a heart transplant. I hope that we here tonight can work to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

Today my colleagues and I had the pleasure to meet a young lad called Daithi Mac Gabhann and his parents; Mairtin and Sef who spoke about their organ donation campaign in the hope of getting young Daithi, who is on the transplant list, and like Aimee is also waiting on a heart transplant. Daithi is one of 15 people awaiting a heart transplant here in the North. Let's as a council work towards increasing the number of people who are registered as organ donors and increase the chances of the likes of young Daithi and others to get the much needed organ donation that they need. This is a very emotive and sensitive topic and it is unfortunate that it needs to result in the death of someone for an organ donation to come forward but when there is an organ donor, life springs from death, sorrow turns to hope and a terrible loss becomes a gift."

Councillor Brown seconded the motion and stated that the DUP were happy to support the legislation in Northern Ireland. He stated that most Members would know of someone or even have a family member who was in need of a donor and if it improved life even for a short time it would be welcomed.

Councillor McAleer stated that the SDLP would welcome the motion and also advised that donors for stem cell bone marrow transplants were required and although the Anthony Nolan campaign stipulates 16-30 year, donors over 30 could register.

Councillor Monteith commended Councillor Corry and stated it was a 'no brainer' and that it was only but right that Council lends its support to something that would make such a dramatic impact to someone's life. He also referred to the people whose lives were in limbo whilst waiting on a transplant saying that they could not make plans just in case they got that all important phone call and if Council could increase the number of phone calls it should go for it.

Councillor Cuddy stated that organ donation saves lives and the UUP would support the motion. He stated that Northern Ireland had the most out of date option in the United Kingdom and spoke of how Joanne Dobson former MLA had had a bill blocked by the DUP and Sinn Féin in Stormont in an endeavour to introduce similar legislation as that of Wales, England, Scotland and Eire. He referred to statistics which highlight that fourteen people pass away whilst on waiting lists for a suitable donor. Councillor Cuddy stated that the UUP had called on the Westminster to include Northern Ireland in the legislation for an 'opt out' system.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that his late sister had been taken by air ambulance to have an organ transplant but unfortunately it had not worked out.

Councillor Corry thanked the Members for supporting the motion and stated it takes two seconds to change a life and no one ever knows when they might need a transplant. Councillor Corry highlighted the Daithi campaign and that it was her greatest hope that he receives a heart.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote on the motion

For 35

Against 0

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried

C241/19 Notice of Motion

Councillor Doris spoke on the motion and said,

Go raibh mile maith agat Chair At last month's Council I highlighted the shocking statistics of victims of domestic abuse who were unable to find suitable accommodation in Mid Ulster. Last month I along with Francie Molloy MP and Linda Dillon MLA attended a meeting with the Housing Executive and I raised this issue with them. I was sickened to find that while victims of racial or sectarian abuse are able to receive 'intimidation points' victims of domestic abuse are unable to do so.

This is an equality issue where it re-enforces a stigma around domestic violence that it is the victims fault and that it is more acceptable to be abused by a stranger on the street than a family member or a partner. If a victim is brave enough to seek help we as a council have an obligation to support them to move on with their lives. No one should be forced to make the decision between staying within an abusive household or become homeless, especially when there are children involved.

Councillor Doris then moved the motion as undernoted:

The Council writes to the Housing Executive and Permanent Secretary for Department for Communities to ensure that victims of domestic abuse will have access to the same 'intimidation points' that are awarded to victims of sectarian, racial or disability abuse to ensure that they are prioritised and have the best possible chance of receiving enough housing points to be reallocated to a safe home. Further to that the Council liaise with groups such as Mid Ulster Women's Aid, Mid Ulster Association of Psychotherapy and any relative groups to ensure that victims are supported in being awarded a safe space to live free from intimidation.

Councillor Bell seconded the motion.

Councillor Black stated that it was clear that a deficit exists in relation to rehousing as a result of domestic abuse especially when victims of other types of abuse such as racial or sectarian receive maximum points. He stated that the level of support should be the same and that the DUP would support the motion.

Councillor Colvin stated that between July 2018 and June 2019 the highest level of domestic abuse had been recorded and accounted for 16% of all crimes. He said there was a growing confidence to report and that he welcomed the UK Domestic Abuse bill which unfortunately had fell with parliament but that the UUP would be happy to work with the Department of Communities to sort out the point differentials.

Councillor Kerr supported the motion and stated that Women's Aid do a great work and Council should do its utmost to support this cause and not permit the NIHE to create a hierarchy of needs.

Councillor Monteith supported the motion and commended Councillor Doris on seeing it through. He said on a daily basis he has to deal with the nonsense of the point policy which resulted in people being unable to get out of life threatening situations. He stated that an overhaul of the point allocation system was long overdue. Councillor Monteith emphasised that coercive control was a scourge on society and the figures for it was not improving. He commended the organisations which support people through such times and commended Councillor Doris and also highlighted that sometimes the problems were intergenerational or between siblings.

Councillor McFlynn stated that the SDLP would also support the motion and commended Councillor Doris on bringing it forward.

The Chair, councillor Kearney called for a vote on the motion.

FOR 35

AGAINST 0

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried and commended Members on all motions carried this evening which had all focused on health.

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

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Black AND

Resolved That items (C242/19 - C251/19) be taken as confidential business

Councillor Oneill left the meeting at 9.12 pm

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 24 October 2019
- (ii) Special Planning Committee (Development Plan) Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 30 October 2019
- (iii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 5 November 2019
- (iv) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 7 November 2019
- (v) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 12 November 2019
- (vi) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 14 November 2019
- (vii) Special Planning Committee (Development Plan) Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 19 November 2019
- (viii) Document for Sealing – Catering Agreement for Premises at Hill of The O’Neill & Ranfurly House, Dungannon between Mid Ulster District Council and Caterer (S Brown)
- (ix) Document for Sealing – Appointment of McAdam Design, Castlereagh Business Park, Belfast as ICT for RDP – Additional Projects – Davagh Trails, Ballyronan Marina, Washingbay and Portglenone Trails/Standards
- (x) Document for Sealing – Appointment of McAdam Design, Castlereagh Business Park, Belfast as ICT for Village Extension Programme – Maghera, Fivemiletown and Moydamlaght

C252/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.15 pm

Chair _____

Date _____