

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Lagan Valley Island on Monday 30 September, 2024 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

Aldermen A G Ewart MBE and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, P Catney, D J Craig, A P Ewing,
A Gowan, J Harpur, B Higginson and U Mackin

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Aldermen O Gawith, M Gregg, A McIntyre and S Skillen

Councillors S Burns, J Gallen, A Givan, G Hynds, C Kemp,
P Kennedy, J Lavery BEM, T Mitchell, M McKeever,
N Parker, G Thompson and N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Member Services Officers
Technician
IT Officer

South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

Ms H Moore, Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics
Mr M Neil, Director of Unscheduled Care, Medicine & Cancer
Ms L Vladeanu, Assistant Director of Prevention and
Population Health, Health & Wellbeing

Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

Mr A Campbell, Director of Performance, Planning &
Informatics
Mr B Nelson Co-Director of Public Health

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, welcomed those present to the special meeting of Council which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. The Mayor pointed out that, should the meeting go into committee to consider confidential business, any members of the press and the public in attendance would be required to leave the Council Chamber for the duration of those matters.

The Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Alderman O Gawith and Councillor N Parker joined the meeting (6.04 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Aldermen J Baird and S P Porter and Councillors R T Beckett, N Eaton, S Lowry, A Martin and C McCready.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To Receive Officials from the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

Alderman McIntyre left and rejoined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.58 pm and 7.15 pm respectively); as did Councillor M McKeever (7.08 pm and 7.16 pm respectively). A number of Members left the meeting during consideration of this item of business, namely Councillor N Trimble (6.41 pm), Councillor A Gowan (6.51 pm), Councillor A P Ewing (6.54 pm), Alderman O Gawith (6.56 pm) and Councillor J Gallen (7.04 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, welcomed to the meeting:

- Ms H Moore, Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics
- Mr M Neil, Director of Unscheduled Care, Medicine & Cancer
- Ms L Vladeanu, Assistant Director of Prevention and Population Health, Health & Wellbeing

Ms Moore made a verbal presentation to Members, which she began by addressing several actions that had arisen from the January 2024 meeting relating to Lisburn Adult Resource Centre, Hillhall Centre and additional emergency respite care, contact services and GP services.

Ms Moore provided an update on issues such as health inequalities, integrated care system, elective care, waiting lists, Encompass digital system, My Care app, performance level targets and the £30m savings plan that was required to be met this year. She appealed to Members to encourage their constituents to give advance notice if they were unable to attend appointments. In respect of contact services, she also asked them to notify her if they were aware of available accommodation space within the North Down and Ards Area.

3. To Receive Officials from the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (Contd)

Ms Moore addressed questions submitted in advance of the meeting in respect of Clinical Psychologist/Clinical Psychiatrist services in the Trust area and traffic lights at the entrance and exit of Lagan Valley Hospital. Given that Alderman S P Porter had not been able to be present at the meeting, Ms Moore agreed to provide him with a written response to his query (Clinical Psychologist/Clinical Psychiatrist services). She also advised that Ms R Gibbs, Director of Adult Services & Healthcare in Prison, would be happy to meet with Alderman Porter as a follow-up.

Officials noted Members' appreciation for the work of staff within both the South Eastern and Belfast Health & Social Care Trusts and agreed to convey these sentiments accordingly. They responded to a number of queries raised by Members relating to:

- the new Lisburn Primary and Community Care Centre;
- the Phone First initiative;
- the My Care app;
- 'Did Not Attend' (DNA) rates;
- health inequalities;
- Ulster Hospital Accident & Emergency Department;
- impacts of financial savings that required to be made;
- ambulance waiting times at Accident & Emergency Departments;
- vacancies within social work;
- bed capacity;
- consultant shortage;
- antisocial behaviour in hospitals;

Arising from discussion:

- it was agreed that an invitation would be extended to representatives from the Strategic Planning and Performance Group to attend the next meeting to provide an update in respect of access to GP services;
- Ms Moore agreed to provide a link to the Health Inequalities Report for circulation to Members;
- Ms Moore agreed to (a) continue to highlight the concerns of the Council in relation to traffic flow in and out of Lagan Valley Hospital at peak times and (b) request that Mr J Thompson, Assistant Director of Patient Experience, provide a response to Councillor D J Craig as to why the Road Traffic Management Survey that would have been carried out during the planning application process for the new Primary and Community Care Centre had not highlighted the potential for traffic flow problems at peak times and what steps could be taken with DfI Roads to resolve this issue;
- Ms Moore agreed to forward a link to the My Care app that Members could provide to their constituents;
- Ms Moore agreed to provide information to Councillor B Higginson regarding Veteran-friendly GPs;
- Ms Moore agreed to respond to Councillor B Higginson as to whether the savings plan that was required to be met this year would have an effect on the provision of MRIs by Alliance Medical;

3. To Receive Officials from the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (Contd)

- Ms Moore agreed to liaise with Ms L Preece, Director of Children's Services & Executive Director of Social Work, to ask that she meet with Councillor J Lavery to ensure he was provided with answers to the queries he had raised at the meeting in January 2024 regarding young people in care in the Council area, the facilities available for contact services and the costs associated with those. Ms Preece would also be asked to address a query raised by Councillor Lavery regarding vacancies within social work;
- Mr Neil agreed to look into a request from Councillor J Lavery regarding arrangements being made for children with special needs to be prioritised when attending Accident & Emergency Departments. Having stated that staff in the Children's Hospital always did the best they could, Mr Campbell also agreed to raise this matter within his Team;
- Ms Moore agreed to pass on a request from Councillor P Catney that a bench be provided at the entrance to the Primary and Community Care Centre that elderly people could avail of when waiting to be picked up by car;
- Ms Moore agreed to request that Ms R Gibbs, Director of Adult Services & Healthcare in Prison, contact Councillor N Parker to address her concerns on respite facilities and to get further details of a particular family she had referred to; and
- Ms Moore agreed that, workload permitting, she would endeavour to prepare a presentation for the next meeting that contained statistical information, similar to that presented in January 2024.

4. To Receive Officials from the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, welcomed to the meeting:

- Mr A Campbell, Director of Performance, Planning & Informatics
- Mr B Nelson, Co-Director of Public Health

Mr Campbell provided an update on issues such as the Encompass digital system, the savings plan that was required to be met this year, Accident & Emergency Departments, waiting lists, elective care and health inequalities. He further advised that the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust had recently been awarded the 'Trust of Sanctuary' Award in recognition of its commitment to providing a safe, welcoming environment to people from all over the world.

In relation to the question submitted in advance by Alderman S P Porter in respect of Clinical Psychologist/Clinical Psychiatrist services in the Trust area, Mr Campbell stated that he had nothing to add to the response given by Ms Moore, which would be provided in writing to Alderman Porter.

Officials answered a number of queries raised by Members in relation to antisocial behaviour at the Royal Victoria Hospital and agreed to provide information in relation to measures being taken to address this matter.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 7.51 pm.

Mayor