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**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

20th February, 2019

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item(s) will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 22nd February, 2019.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

- 2** (f) RESTRICTED - City Recovery Programme (Pages 1 - 10)
- 3** (d) Update on Motion: Community Pharmacies (Pages 11 - 18)
- 9** (d) Use of Banqueting Hall by the Electoral Commission (Pages 19 - 20)

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Update on Motion: Community Pharmacies
Date:	22 nd February, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext 6314
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext 6314

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response which has been received from Mr. Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, in relation to the Council's motion on Community Pharmacies.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council, at its meeting on 3rd December, passed the following motion on Community Pharmacies, which had been proposed by Alderman Copeland and seconded by Councillor Mullan:

“This Council recognises the contribution to society made by Community Pharmacies and notes with growing concern the current financial crisis facing the sector, caused by a serious level of underfunding over the last decade.

The Council agrees to seek an urgent meeting between the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health and an all-party delegation from the Council, along with representatives of the Pharmacies.”

3.2 Letters were forwarded subsequently to Mr. G. Greene, Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI and to Mr. R. Pengelly, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, in relation to the motion.

3.3 The Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI confirmed shortly afterwards that he would be willing to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with the Permanent Secretary to discuss the motion. A response has now been received from Mr. Pengelly, a copy of which is attached.

3.4 Mr. Pengelly affirms the Department of Health’s and the Belfast Health and Social Care Board’s commitment to developing sustainable funding arrangements for community pharmacy services which support patient outcomes in the context of new pharmacy contractual arrangements. He explains that, as a result of ongoing discussions with Community Pharmacy NI, his Department had, in November, announced additional funding of £11.1 million to support community pharmacy services up to March 2020. That was in addition to £104 million per annum confirmed for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 and £5 million per annum for public health and pre-registration training. Since the aforementioned announcement, a further £4.6 million had been made available to support transformational change within the community pharmacy network.

3.5 Mr. Pengelly concludes by pointing out that the Department of Health has committed £121.7 million to the community pharmacy economy during 2018/2019, at a time of significant financial pressures within the wider health and social care service and trusts that this provides assurance to Members of his Department’s commitment to community pharmacy. No reference is made, however, to the request to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with Community Pharmacy NI, as alluded to in Alderman Copeland’s motion.

Financial and Resource Implications

None

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, including press release.

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**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnistrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Mr Henry Downey
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Chief Executive's Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559
Fax: 02890520573

Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP3500
SINV-0001-2019

Date: 12th February 2019

Dear Mr Downey,

COMMUNITY PHARMACY FUNDING

Your letter of 17 December 2018 (received on 27 December 2018) refers in which you provided details of a motion passed by Belfast City Council concerning funding of community pharmacies and a request for a meeting with an all-party delegation from the Council.

This Department and the Health and Social Care Board have been fully committed to finding a way forward to develop sustainable funding arrangements for community pharmacy services that support patient outcomes in the context of new pharmacy contractual arrangements.

In that context, and as a result of ongoing discussions with Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland (CPNI), the Department was pleased to announce in November a financial package of £11.1m by way of additional funding to support community pharmacy services up to March 2020. This funding is in addition to £104m funding per annum confirmed for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and £5m per annum for public health and pre-registration training.

A copy of the press release setting out more detail on the funding package is attached for information and is also available from: www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/additional-funding-announced-community-pharmacy/

Since that announcement on 16 November 2018 a further £4.6m has also been made available to support transformational change within the community pharmacy network.

In summary, the Department has committed £121.7m to the community pharmacy economy during 2018/19 at a time of significant financial pressures within the wider HSC. I trust that this provides assurance to members of the Department's commitment to community pharmacy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Pengelly', written in a cursive style.

RICHARD PENGELLY

ENC

PRESS RELEASE

Additional funding announced for Community Pharmacy

Date published: 16 November 2018

A new funding package for community pharmacies has today been announced by the Department of Health.

The additional allocations of up to £11.1m will be made available up to March 2020.

The new package is in addition to £104m per year funding confirmed for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The additional allocations announced today comprise:

- £9m being made available across Northern Ireland up to 31 March 2020 to address immediate pressures within the community pharmacy network and support services for patients in social care settings. This additional funding will include extra support for pharmacies in rural locations;
- Transformation funding of up to £2.1m being made available immediately for launch of a Pharmacy First service for this winter season, which will be the first point of contact for patients for the treatment of a range of common conditions.

Consideration is also being given to further proposals for transformation funding to increase access to pharmaceutical care for patients, utilise the expertise of pharmacists, promote professional cooperation and build capacity in the health system

Today's announcement is the outcome of discussions with Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland (CPNI) and builds on the draft Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the Department, the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and CPNI to develop new contractual arrangements.

Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, said: **“Community pharmacies are often the first point of contact for patients seeking advice on their health, accessing the safe supply of medicines, treatment of common complaints and important public health services. The additional funding being announced today will help ensure that local populations have access to the most visited provider among all of the health services available.**

“We are very mindful of the growing pressures facing community pharmacists in different parts of the province. Officials from the Department and the Health and Social Care Board have been working very hard to make today's announcement possible.

“I would like to thank the individual community pharmacy contractors who I met personally to discuss the challenges facing their businesses.”

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Subject:	Use of Banqueting Hall by the Electoral Commission
Date:	22 nd February, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	As Above

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a request from the Electoral Commission for the use of the Banqueting Hall for a Candidates' Briefing on 13 th March.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise the Electoral Commission to use the Banqueting Hall on 13th March for a briefing for prospective candidates in the Local Elections. 2. Agree to waive the fee for room hire for this event. 3. Agree that these decisions will not be subject to call-in, due to the time frame for the event and that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the council's or the public's interests.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1.1	A request has been received from the Electoral Commission for Northern Ireland for the use of a room in the City Hall on 13 th March for the purpose of holding a briefing for prospective candidates in the Local Elections. The Council granted permission for a similar event in 2014.
3.1.2	The event would take place in the Banqueting Hall from 6.00pm until approximately 9.00pm and would be open to all prospective candidates to attend.
3.1.3	The Commission would cover any costs associated with tea/coffee upon arrival.
3.2	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.2.1	None associated with this report.
3.3	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.3.1	None associated with this report.