



Subject:	Update on Motion: Community Pharmacies
Date:	22 nd February, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, ext 6314
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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
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> 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

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