



<b>Subject:</b>	Update on Motion: Community Pharmacies
<b>Date:</b>	12th April, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a further response which has been received from Mr. Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, in relation to the Council's motion on Community Pharmacies.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b> 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 was then received from Mr. Pengelly and was presented to the Committee on 22nd February, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1.

3.4

Mr. Pengelly had, within that response, provided details of substantial funding which had been made available in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to community pharmacies and had confirmed that a further £800k had been allocated within the current financial year. However, he had made no reference to the request to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with Community Pharmacy NI, as had been alluded to within the motion.

3.5

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a further letter be forwarded to Mr. Pengelly inviting him to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and the Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI. A copy of his response is attached at Appendix 2.

3.6

Mr. Pengelly again outlines the extent of funding which has been allocated to community pharmacies and points out that Departmental officials have ongoing contact with CPNI representatives on a wide range of funding issues. He states that that represents the most appropriate forum for engagement on funding issues and the development of new contractual arrangements for community pharmacies. He does not, therefore, feel that meeting with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with Community Pharmacy NI would be beneficial at this time.

3.7	<p>Mr. Pengelly then highlights the difficult and challenging financial environment being faced across the public sector, and by the health service in particular, and concludes by assuring Members that his Department is committed to ensuring that there continues to be a sustainable community pharmacy network and effective contractual arrangements.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.8	<p>None</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.9	<p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Response from the Permanent Secretary - 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2019</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Response from the Permanent Secretary – 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019</p>