

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING: 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA VIDEO LINK

Present: First Minister (Chair)
deputy First Minister (Chair)
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Minister for Communities
Minister for the Economy
Minister of Education
Minister of Finance
Minister of Health
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister of Justice

In attendance: Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Lyons)
Junior Minister, TEO (Mr. Kearney)
Head of Executive and Central Advisory Division, TEO

Dr Michael McBride, Chief Medical Officer
Karen Pearson, Director of EU Relations, TEO

INTRODUCTION

The deputy First Minister chaired agenda item 1 - 4.

AGENDA ITEM 1

E (M) (20) 53 Minutes of Executive meeting held on 17 September 2020

1. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 17 September 2020 were agreed.

E (M) (20) 54 Minutes of Executive meeting held on 21 September 2020

2. The minutes of the Executive meeting of 21 September 2020 were agreed

Matters arising

3. The deputy First Minister advised that, as agreed at the Executive meeting of 21 September, circulation of agreed lines to take on COVID messaging would be taken forward shortly.

AGENDA ITEM 2

COVID-19 Report by the Minister of Health

4. The Minister of Health provided an update on, and the Executive discussed, developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, including the 'R' number; demographic of positive cases; visits to care homes; the position at Altnagelvin, Craigavon and Antrim hospitals; and risk management in maternity hospital settings.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Actions from Previous meetings

5. The deputy First Minister advised that the Action Log had been circulated.

AGENDA ITEM 4

COVID-19 Management

E (20) 220 (C) Hospitality: Consideration of Changing Closing Times

6. The deputy First Minister introduced this paper.
7. The Executive noted the advice from Chief Medical Officer, and following discussion, agreed that closing time would be set at 11.00 p.m, and that this would be applied to all pubs, bars, hotel bars and restaurants serving alcohol. The Executive agreed that details of this decision would be announced by the

First Minister and deputy First Minister in an Assembly Statement the following Monday, to enable the required regulations to be drafted. In the interim no public comment should be made about the decision.

8. The deputy First Minister advised that the Statement would be provided to Executive Ministers when available.

E (20) 221 (C) Non- Pharmaceutical Options to Reduce the Transmission of COVID-19

9. The Minister of Health introduced this paper.
10. The Executive agreed that further work would take place on a cross-departmental basis over the following week to develop a package of options for recommendation, including incremental approaches.
11. The deputy First Minister advised that she, the First Minister, the Minister of Health and the Chief Medical Officer would meet the following week to consider how to take this forward.

E (20) 219 (C) COVID-19: Rebuilding and Stabilisation of Cancer Services

12. The Minister of Health introduced this paper.
13. The Executive:
 - (i) endorsed the Department of Health's draft Policy Statement which set out short and medium term plans to rebuild and stabilise cancer oncology and haematology services to address the serious detrimental impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Health and Social Care's delivery of these services across Northern Ireland. A copy of the draft Policy Statement was attached to Executive Memorandum E (20) 219 (C); and
 - (ii) agreed the allocation of the new recurrent investment required to implement the rebuilding and stabilisation plans to address the detrimental impact of Covid-19 on the delivery of these services. The total new

investment required was £10.4m spread over two years, 2020/21 and 2021/22, and £12.36m funded recurrently from 2022/23.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

E (20) 223 (C) Public Expenditure: 2020-21 COVID-19 Economic Recovery Assessment

16. The Minister of Finance introduced this paper.

17. The Executive:

- (i) noted the overall level of funding available;
- (ii) agreed the allocations at Annex B to Executive Memorandum E (20) 223 (C); and
- (iii) agreed that £55.2 million be held centrally for support to other sectors/further PPE costs.

18. Following discussion, the Executive also agreed that an additional £1.85 million would be allocated to Air Route Support.

The First Minister chaired the remaining items on the agenda

AGENDA ITEM 5

Other papers requiring Executive agreement

Irrelevant & Sensitive

AGENDA ITEM 6

Any other business

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Maghaberry/Hydebank Prisons

25. The Minister of Justice provided an update on the ongoing situation in Hydebank and Maghaberry prisons.

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Date of next meeting

27. The date of the next meeting of the Executive would take place on Thursday 1 October at 1.00 p.m.