# 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

 The deputy First Minster 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 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

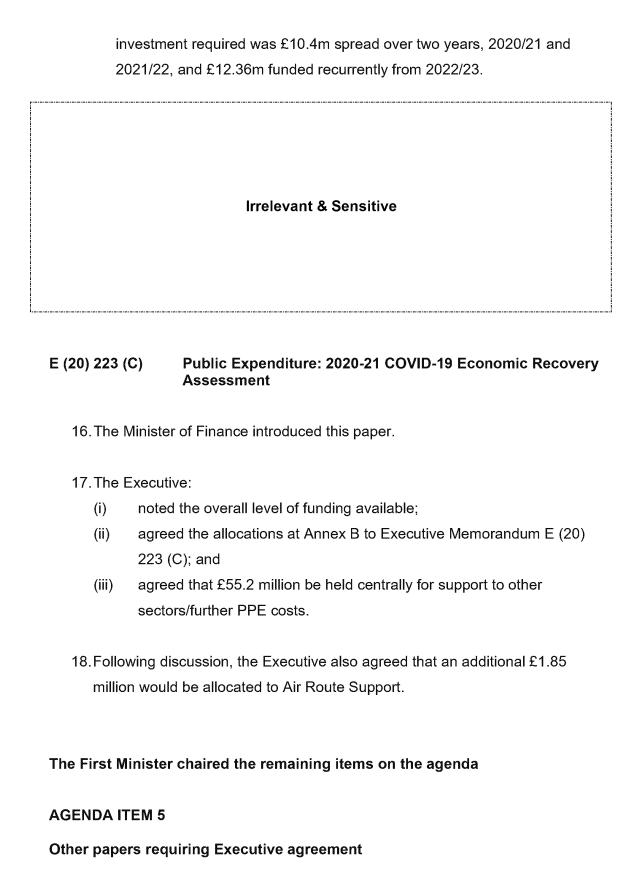
- 9. The Minister of Health introduced this paper.
- 10. The Executive agreed that further work would take place on a crossdepartmental basis over the following week to develop a package of options for recommendation, including incremental approaches.
- 11. The deputy First Minister advised that she,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

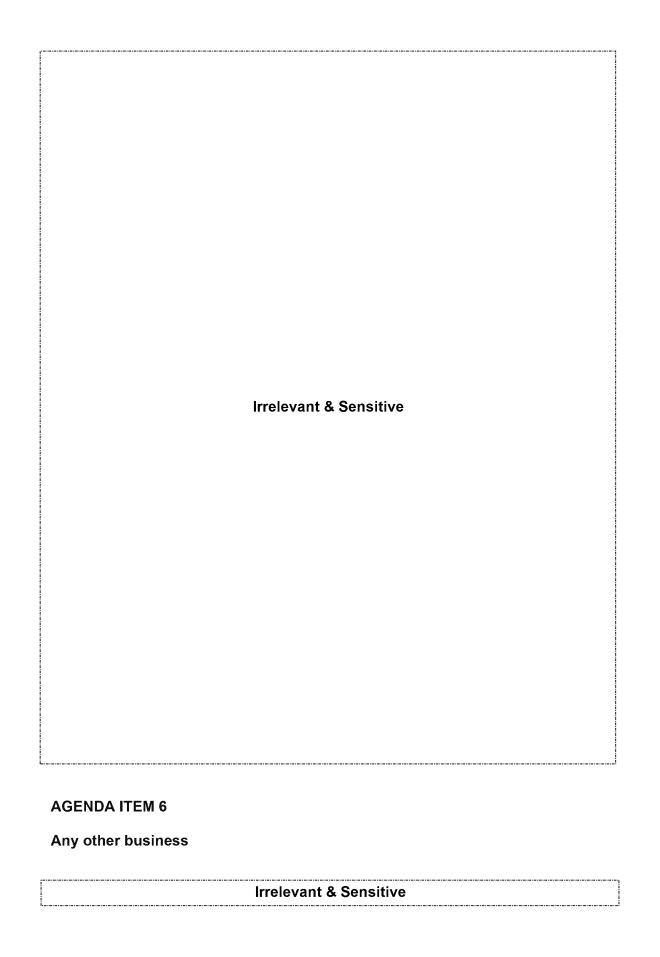
#### E (20) 219 (C) COVID-19: Rebuilding and Stabilisation of Cancer Services

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





#### 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.