

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>3 March 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>N/A</b>
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

## **2.0** The following are listed:

### **2.1 Department for Communities, Deidre Hargey MLA, dated 6 February 2020 (copy attached)**

#### **Re: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council**

Correspondence has been received from the Minister for Communities regarding various news reports in the Media of concerns about the financial position of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

Under section 104 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the Minister has requested information by 20 February 2020 (see Annex).

### **2.2 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, dated 10 February 2020 (copy attached)**

#### **Re: A1 Junctions**

Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council unanimously agreed to this Motion and urge Council to support it also by making a submission to the inquiry.

*"This Council make a formal written submission to the upcoming A1 Junctions Phase 2 Public Inquiry, which is to begin in March 2020.*

*The submission will reflect the full support of this council for an urgent upgrade of this road as per the DFI proposals, a stretch of road that has brought so much devastation to the families of many local people who have lost their lives while travelling on it over the years. Council will also write to the other local authorities through which the A1 travels, namely Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council urging them to support our motion and requesting that they too make their own submissions to the inquiry."*

- <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/a1-junctions-phase-2-departmental-statement-public-inquiry>

**2.3 Office of the Minister for Infrastructure Nichola Mallon MLA, dated 17 February 2020 (copy attached)**

**Re: NI Water Funding**

Acknowledging correspondence from Council conveying Council's concerns relating to the funding and governance of water and wastewater infrastructure.

**2.4 NI Housing Council - February Housing Council Bulletin, dated 17 February 2020 (copy attached)**

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Offices.

**3.0 It is recommended** that Council consider the correspondence.



Department for

**Communities**

[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

**From: The Minister**

**Level 9  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 9051 5690  
e-mail: [private\\_office@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private_office@communities-ni.gov.uk)  
Date: 06 February 2020

Lord Mayor  
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council  
Cloonavin  
66 Portstewart Road  
Coleraine  
BT52 1EY

Dear

#### **CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL**

I am aware from various news reports that have appeared in the media over the last number of weeks of concerns about the financial position of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. I have also recently received a number of correspondence cases drawing my attention to serious concerns regarding the financial viability of the Council and asking for my intervention.

Under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the Department has a number of supervision powers in relation to councils. Under section 104 of the 2014 Act, the Department may direct a council to:

- make to the Department such reports and returns;
- give to the Department such information with respect to the exercise of the council's functions

as may be specified in the direction.

In order to more fully understand the situation which the council finds itself in, I would be grateful if the Council could provide me, under s104 of the 2014 Act, with the information requested in the attached Annex by 20 February 2020.

Yours sincerely



**Deirdre Hargey MLA**  
**Minister for Communities**

## CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Direction under section 104 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

Areas on which information is sought

<p><b>Financial Management</b></p> <p>1. Please specify the year to date and predicted (year end) expenditure v income (stating if this is fully inclusive of accruals and amounts due) Please include all narrative explanations and major assumptions.</p> <p>Please comment specifically on the level of certainty in outcomes.</p>	
<p>2. Please indicate the processes for verifying the integrity of figures for income and expenditure reported to council and council committees- that is the level of checking of accuracy and by whom.</p>	
<p>3. Please accurately state the year to date and predicted (year end) general fund balance to include any major and significant assumptions included in the figures.</p>	
<p>4. Please provide cash flow projections highlighting any pressures on cash. Please include any assumptions within this.</p>	
<p>5. Please provide all reports made to Council including the committees to demonstrate financial position during and referring to 19/20.</p>	
<p>6. Please provide details of the internal processes for establishing and monitoring budgets to include named individuals responsible for oversight of departmental budgets. Include the</p>	

<p>frequency of monitoring and how overspends are escalated and treated.</p>	
<p>7. Please forward a detailed recovery /action plan indicating clearly how and when the impacts of such a plan will realise.</p>	
<p>8. Please detail the current position on loan balances, any plans to increase loans (include details of planned expenditure) and details of when loans will be paid.</p>	
<p>9. Please forward an update of the progress made in implementing recommendations included in the NIAO Report to those Charged with Governance.</p>	
<p>10. Please provide a copy of the final PWC report and please provide details (including minutes) of discussions about the review undertaken by PWC including submissions to Council and council committees. If available please provide a copy of the action plan arising from the PWC review.</p>	
<p>11. Please provide Internal Audit Plans for 2019/2020, 20/21 and 21/22.</p>	
<p>12. Please provide details of any disposals and easements at less than best price/best rent/best terms. Please provide details of when/whether Departmental approval was sought and obtained for such disposals.</p>	

<p><b>Governance and Risk</b></p> <p>13. Please forward minutes of meetings held with Party Leaders (and other meetings where issues of concern were discussed) during 19/20.</p>	
<p>14. Please forward the corporate risk register together with supporting directorate risk registers with details of risk management to include meetings of senior staff and councillors where risk was discussed.</p>	
<p>15. Please advise of the status of HOS meetings as recently held in December. This should include frequency of such meetings and how these fit into the governance structures (mechanisms to feed issues back to senior management and councillors as required)</p>	
<p>16. Please advise on any staff surveys conducted and the results and actions taken as a result. If no staff surveys undertaken recently please advise how management has assessed morale, health and well being of staff.</p>	
<p>17. Please provide a copy of any report on staff realignment to ensure all similar staff are on the same terms and conditions</p>	
<p><b>Performance Improvement</b></p>	
<p>18. Please advise what actions have been taken to embed performance management systems and council structures to secure continuous improvement as required by the qualified opinion in the NIAO section 95 Audit and Assessment report 2019-20</p>	
<p>19. Please forward a copy of the councils revised Performance Improvement Policy referred to in the NIAO section 95 report.</p>	

Marie Ward  
Chief Executive

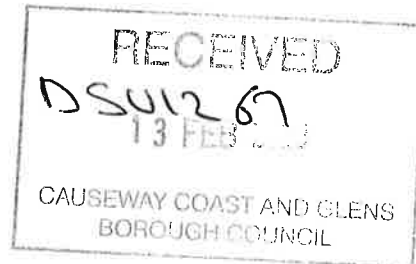


Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne  
and Down  
District Council

Our ref: C/037/2020

10 February 2020

Mr David Jackson  
CEO  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
Council HQ  
Cloonanvin  
66 Portstewart Road  
Coleraine  
BT52 1EY



Dear Mr Jackson

**Re: A1 Junctions**

At a Meeting of Newry Mourne & Down District Council held on Monday 3 February 2020, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

*"This Council make a formal written submission to the upcoming A1 Junctions Phase 2 Public Inquiry, which is to begin in March 2020.*

*The submission will reflect the full support of this council for an urgent upgrade of this road as per the DFI proposals, a stretch of road that has brought so much devastation to the families of many local people who have lost their lives while travelling on it over the years. Council will also write to the other local authorities through which the A1 travels, namely Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council urging them to support our motion and requesting that they too make their own submissions to the inquiry."*

Members of Newry, Mourne and District Council unanimously agreed to this Motion and urge your Council to support it also by making a submission to the inquiry.

Information can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/a1-junctions-phase-2-departmental-statement-public-inquiry>

Yours sincerely

  
**Marie Ward**  
**Chief Executive**

/DST

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**Newry Office**  
O'Hagan House  
Monaghan Row  
Newry BT35 8DJ

**Oifig Dhún Pádraig**  
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council@nmandd.org  
www.newrymournedown.org

**Ag freastal ar an Dúin**  
**agus Ard Mhacha Theas**  
**Serving Down**  
**and South Armagh**





Department for

**Infrastructure**

An Roinn

**Bonneagair**

[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure  
**Nichola Mallon MLA**

Sinéad Duggan  
Civic Support & Committee & Member  
Services Officer  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council,  
Civic Headquarters,  
Cloonavin  
66 Portstewart Road  
Coleraine  
BT52 1EY

Room 708  
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BELFAST  
BT2 8GB  
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Your reference:  
Our reference: CORR-1112-2020  
Date: 17 February 2020

[Sinead.Duggan@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:Sinead.Duggan@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Duggan,

## **NI WATER FUNDING**

Thank you for your letter of 29 January 2020 to convey the Council's concerns relating to the funding and governance of our water and wastewater infrastructure.

I am very much aware of the constraints in the waste water treatment system in many areas across the North and I share Council's concerns about the implications of this for economic development, housing and the environment.

Northern Ireland Water has developed its Business Plan for the period 2021-27 which sets out its capital requirements for water and wastewater and has submitted it to the Utility Regulator at the end of January. The prioritisation of works during any Price Control period is led by the Utility Regulator, in consultation with NI Water and its other statutory regulators. It is also subject to adequate funding being made available. As Minister I have inherited a range of capital pressures within which I have to work to invest in water and wastewater infrastructure, address regional imbalance, improve connectivity and address climate change.

Nonetheless, I am clear that finding solutions to allow greater investment in modern and sustainable water and wastewater infrastructure, for the benefit of local economic and community development, and to safeguard our environment, is a key priority. You will be aware that investment in wastewater infrastructure is a commitment in the New Decade New Approach Agreement produced by the British Government and Irish Government. I also welcome the fact that it is a recognised priority across all political

parties in the Assembly. I have raised the need for urgent investment in our water and wastewater infrastructure with my Executive colleagues and will continue to work with them to secure the funding required.

Yours sincerely



**NICHOLA MALLON MLA**  
**Minister for Infrastructure**



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## **FEBRUARY HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN**

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 10.30 am in the Coleraine Council offices.

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

### **Members Present**

Ald Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Cllr Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Ald Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Cllr Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Ald John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Ald Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Ald Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Cllr Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

### **Members Apologies**

Cllr Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
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The Housing Council's considered various routine items at the Meeting, followed by detailed discussions on the undernoted matters:-

- Members received a presentation from representatives from the Housing Executive and the Department for Communities on Housing Executive's Stock Transfer.
- The Housing Executive's Chief Executive gave a verbal update on **Housing Executive's Business from the January Board Meeting**, which included the following items:-
  1. Key Issues and Priorities (Open Discussion Item)
  2. Board Business – Committee Membership / Structures
  3. Monthly Finance Report as at 31 December 2019
  4. Proposed Changes to the Corporate Risk Register
  5. Request to Close Two Unused Bank Accounts
  6. Response Maintenance Procurement Strategy
  7. Exceptional Supporting People Payment
  8. Draft Home Energy Conservation Authority (HECA) Annual Progress Report
  9. Performance against the 2019-20 Business Plan at the end of the third quarter of the business year

10. Corporate Services Quarterly Update Report
  11. Supporting People Programme – Progress Status Update
  12. Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) Update
  13. Compliance Health & Safety Assurance – Monthly Report
  14. Proposed Repayment Arrangements for Leaseholds for planned schemes costs (Reacquisition Policy)
- Members then received an update from Judith Woodburn and Maryann Demspey, Department for Communities, on the **Departments' Housing Top Issues** to date, which included:-
    1. Social Newbuild starts
    2. Co-ownership
    3. Programme for Social Reform
    4. Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
    5. Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers
    6. Supporting People Delivery Strategy
    7. Homelessness Strategy
    8. St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena
    9. Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
    10. Increasing Housing Supply
    11. Affordable Warmth Scheme
    12. NIHE Rent Scheme
    13. Update on Welfare Reform Mitigation payments

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 am in the Omagh Council offices.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

### **Contacts**

#### **Chair**

Alderman Tommy Nicholl MBE  
[Ald.nicholl@midandeantrim.gov.uk](mailto:Ald.nicholl@midandeantrim.gov.uk)  
Mobile: 07970012520

#### **Secretary**

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Tel: 028 95982752