



**From: The Minister**

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Our ref: SUB-2226-2020

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David Jackson  
Chief Executive  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
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Via email: [David.Jackson@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:David.Jackson@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

David a chara,

## **EXTRAORDINARY AUDIT AT CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL**

In February 2020 Minister Hargey, due to concerns which had been raised with the Department, together with a number of news reports that had appeared in the media about the financial position of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, directed the Council to provide the Department with information in relation to a number of issues.

The direction included a request for details in respect of any disposals and easements at less than best price including when Departmental approval was sought and obtained for such disposals. Under s96(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972 a council should not dispose of land at less than best price except with the approval of my Department and my Department has never received any applications from the Council concerning proposals to sell land at an under value.

The Department has continued to receive representations and concerns about Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and in particular, about land disposals and easements.

Therefore, in order to take control of this situation, I have directed the Local Government Auditor, under Article 22 of the Local Government (NI) Order 2005, to hold an extraordinary audit of the accounts of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council concentrating on land disposals and easements and related asset management policies and procedures.



In addition in her letter of 6 February 2020, Minister Hargey directed the Council, under section 104 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, to provide information under the following headings:

- Financial Management,
- Governance and Risk, and
- Performance Improvement.

The Department received information from the Council from 18-20 February in response to this request, however, the information provided was uncollated and disorganised and in many cases did not address the specifics of the questions asked. Consequently I am now directing the Council, under section 104, to provide the Department with an update on the issues raised in the direction.

I would be grateful if you could take this forward as soon as possible.

Is mise le meas,

*Carál Ní Chuilín*

**Carál Ní Chuilín MLA**  
**Minister for Communities**