



Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate Policy & Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 January 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-2025)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council operates as one effective and efficient corporate unit with a common purpose and culture
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

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

Screening Requirements	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 Email correspondence from G Scott, Unite The Union to Council Chief Executive, D Jackson 17 January 2022 (extract below)

Trade Union and Labour Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1995: Notice To Employer Of An Official Industrial Action Ballot

Unite intends to hold a ballot for industrial action. We reasonably believe that ballot papers will be dispatched on Tuesday 25 January 2022.

The ballot is in relation to a trade dispute over 2021/2022 pay, including all matters arising out of and in consequence of this dispute.

We intend to send ballot papers to all our members employed by your organisation.

These members comprise:

I. All our members employed by your organisation paying subscriptions by check off from which information, in relation to these employees, you will be able readily to deduce:

- a. The total number of employees concerned,*
- b. The category(ies) of employee to which the employees concerned belong and the number of employees concerned in the category(ies), and*
- c. The workplace(s) at which the employees concerned work and the number of them who work at the workplace(s)*

And, in addition:

II. All our members employed by your organisation who do not pay subscriptions by check off who are listed overleaf by:

- a. Category(ies) of employees to be balloted*
- b. Workplace(s) where the employees work*
- c. Total number of employees concerned*
- d. The number of employees in the category(ies)*
- e. The number of employees at the workplace(s)*

The lists and figures described at (II.) above have been arrived at by retrieving information from our membership database as to the category(ies) and workplace(s) of members, the number in the category(ies) and the number at the workplace(s) We updated the database for the purpose of the ballot to ensure accuracy.

The information provided is as accurate as is reasonably practicable in light of the information in the union's possession. If there are any inaccuracies, this will have been caused by factors outside of our control, such as members not informing the union of any changes.

An independent scrutineer has been appointed:

*Civica Election Services Limited
Independence House
33 Clarendon Road
London
N8 0NW*

A sample ballot paper is attached to this notice.

Any communication regarding this notice should be addressed to me.

*Yours sincerely
Gareth Scott
Regional Officer
Unite the Union*

2.2 Email correspondence from D Anderson, NILGA to Council Chief Executive, D Jackson 18 January 2022 (extract below)

The LGA workforce team have issued the following update on the TU's ballot for industrial action for your information:-

"UNISON has announced the outcome of its recent national ballot for industrial action. The Trade Union Act 2016 requires that for any strike action to be lawful, at least 50 per cent of the members entitled to cast a vote must do so.

*The result of the ballot (**England and Wales only. Northern Ireland ballot closes on 10 Feb**) is as follows:*

***Voted 'yes' to strike action = 70.2 per cent
Voted 'no' to strike action = 29.8 per cent
Turnout = 14.5%***

As the turnout has clearly failed to reach the 50 per cent threshold, UNISON cannot now proceed with industrial action related to the 2021 NJC pay offer. UNISON will be writing to individual employers to inform them of the result in their own organisation. UNISON's national local government committee will be meeting next Tue 18 Jan to discuss next steps.

GMB's national local government committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss its next steps in light of the result of its consultative ballot (which is unknown to us) that closed on 13 December.

Unite is currently in the process of issuing strike ballot notices to employers and will begin balloting its members in the next week or so. Unlike UNISON, which conducted an aggregated ballot (meaning it required at least 50 per cent of its national membership to cast a vote), Unite's results will be collated on a disaggregated basis, which means that strike action could be taken at each individual council / school etc where a turn-out of at least 50 per cent is secured (if members vote in favour of strike action). Its ballot also covers employees covered by the JNC for local authority Craftworkers and the JNC for Youth & Community Workers. The ballot will close towards the end of February.

Chief Executives and Chief Officers have been offered a full and final offer of 1.5 per cent (covering the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022), which the Staff Sides of both groups have rejected. We await further announcements from them about next steps.

The National Employers will be meeting on 31 January.

2.3 Email letter correspondence from S Havlin, Local Government Boundaries Commissioner to Council Chief Executive, D Jackson dated 18 January 2022 (copy attached)

Summary

Revised Recommendations published open for public consultation at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/consultation-on-lgbc-revised-recommendations/>, closing date 1st March 2022.

Public hearings on Provisional Recommendations published on 27 July 2021 were held in each of the 11 Local Government Districts in September and October this year, chaired by Assistant Commissioners. The Commissioner is satisfied these Revised Recommendations have taken account of issues raised and with Assistant Commissioners during public engagement.

The team, working alongside colleagues in the Electoral Office NI and with mapping and charting officers from Ordnance Survey NI have endeavoured to achieve as far as possible electoral equality and fairness across Northern Ireland.

Council is encouraged to consider the revised recommendations and share views.

3.0 It is recommended that Council consider the correspondence.

**Office of the Local Government
Boundaries Commissioner**
C/O Local Government Division,
Department for Communities,
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

By email:

18 Jan 2022

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES REVIEW IN NORTHERN IRELAND REVISED RECOMMENDATION

Dear Consultee,

I am pleased to announce that my Revised Recommendations have now been published and are open for public consultation at

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/consultation-on-lgbc-revised-recommendations/>. The closing date for written feedback and suggestions about these recommendations will be 1st March 2022.

Public hearings on my Provisional Recommendations published on 27 July 2021 were held in each of the 11 Local Government Districts in September and October this year, chaired by my Assistant Commissioners. I am satisfied that these Revised Recommendations have taken account of issues raised with me and with Assistant Commissioners during public engagement.

My team, working alongside colleagues in the Electoral Office NI and with mapping and charting officers from Ordnance Survey NI have endeavoured to achieve as far as possible electoral equality and fairness across Northern Ireland.

I would encourage you to consider the revised recommendations and share your views with us. There is more information about my Review process and how to respond at <https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/consultations> or alternatively you can submit a response by e-mailing my team on consultations@lgbc-ni.org.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Havlin

Local Government Boundaries Commissioner

cc Paul Culbert, LGBC Office, Tracy Meharg, Anthony Carleton