



Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	1 March 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 Northern Ireland Housing Council (correspondence dated 10 February 2022) (copy attached)

The Housing Council January bulletin dated 10 February 2022 and 487th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council minutes.

2.2 Department for Infrastructure Roads (copy attached)

Correspondence received regarding responses to Elected Member queries presented to the Department for Infrastructure Roads representatives at the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7 December 2021.

2.3 Alison McCullough, Chief Executive Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (correspondence dated 19 January 2022) (copy attached)

At the Council meeting held on 11 January 2022, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council adopted the following Motion: *This Council fully supports the call by the Commissioner for Older People Eddie Lynch for a public inquiry into Northern Ireland's handling of care home residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, being the first and to date only local authority to call for such an inquiry.*

The support of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is sought for a public inquiry into this matter.

2.4 Alison McCullough, Chief Executive Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (correspondence dated 9 February 2022) (copy attached)

Summary extracted

At a Special Policy and Resources meeting held on 31 January 2022, Members asked me to write to all Councils in Northern Ireland regarding their existing Procurement Policies and to clarify whether they would wish to work with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to develop progressive policies in relation to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaign.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council are asked to give this issue due consideration and respond.

3.0 It is recommended that Council consider the correspondence.



**Minutes of the 487th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 13th January 2022 at 10 am via Zoom**

Present:

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

In Attendance:

Paul Price	Department for Communities
David Polley	Department for Communities
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, Housing Executive (Left the Meeting at 10.45 am)
Paul Isherwood	Director of Asset Management (Housing Executive) (Arrived at 11 am)
Adrian Blythe	Housing Executive
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

1.0	<u>Welcome</u> The Chair welcomed Paul Price and David Polley from the Department for Communities and Grainia Long and Adrian Blythe from the Housing Executive. It was noted that Grainia would withdraw from the Meeting around 11am due to another pressing engagement, but would be represented by Paul Isherwood for the remainder of the meeting.	
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<p>2.0</p>	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>3.0</p>	<p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 486th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 10th December 2021</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Speers and seconded by Alderman Bresland and resolved, that the Minutes of the 486th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 10th December 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<p>4.0 4.1 4.2</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p><u>Housing Association Key Staff Contacts</u></p> <p>It was noted that Members had received a list of Housing Associations staff key contacts, for their information.</p> <p><u>Notice to Quit and Housing Supply Strategy Consultations</u></p> <p>Members had received links for the Notice to Quit and Housing Supply Strategy Consultations, Members were reminded to share comments with the Secretary in order to submit a response.</p>	<p>All Members Secretary</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>Councillor Mathison had requested a future presentation from relevant NIHE officers on their approach to vacant/derelict housing.</p> <p>The workplan was noted.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>

6.0

Report from the Housing Executive's Chief Executive, Grainia Long on Housing Executive Business

Ms Long spoke in detail to her circulated report, which provided the Housing Council with an update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues were outlined under the headings as follows:-

- **JMC Mechanical and Construction Ltd**
- **COVID-19 Update**
- **Regina Coeli Hostel - Belfast**
- **Temporary Accommodation / Single Lets**
- **Contractor issues, Rathcoole**
- ***NIHE 50th Anniversary Event - Tuesday 7 December 2021***
- ***Recent Belfast Telegraph Article - Insulation in NIHE Homes***
- **Climate Update**
- **Supporting People**
- **Nature Positive Solutions**
- **Upper Long Streets - Belfast**
- **Private Sector Improvement Services - Recruitment Challenges and impact on service delivery**
 - **Housing Executive Revitalisation (HER Programme Board Work)**
 - **World Health Organisation - Belfast Healthy Cities Awards**

In relation to Regina Coeli Hostel, Ms Long advised Councillor Cooper that the building is no longer 'fit for purpose' and it would not be practical for the Housing Executive to take on the units. The Housing Executive want to re-establish a service for women who are homeless and are looking actively at options.

The wider issue is the lack of temporary accommodation, due to Covid restrictions, hostels are not able to fill to capacity. The Housing Executive has looked at all of their Providers and where units can be added and also addressing bring their own properties back into use. It was noted that there has been a downward curve for temporary accommodation around October/November 2021.

Councillor Cooper referred to models in Finland, where empty buildings were turned around to provide temporary accommodation for the homeless and wrap around services were sustained. He felt the Housing Executive and Department for Communities should be exploring such avenues and asked if this could brought back to a future meeting, for further discussion.

DfC/NIHE

	<p>Ms Long explained that there has been an unprecedented surge of 3,000 increasing to 9,000 placements over 2 years. She highlighted that the Housing Executive had managed to meet its statutory obligation, despite the challenges and increasing demand, which also illustrated a certain level of innovation. She assured Members that options are being continually reviewed.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ms Long for a very comprehensive and informative Report.</p> <p>Grainia Long withdrew at this point, and Paul Isherwood joined the Meeting.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p><u>Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan</u></p> <p>Adrian Blythe provided Members an update on the Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan (Copies of the slides are appended to these Minutes).</p> <p>Mr Blythe explained that cavity wall insulation installed in homes across the UK in the 1980's and 90's has been a major concern across all housing sectors in recent years.</p> <p>Mr Blythe informed Members in 2017, the Housing Executive commissioned an independent construction body 'British Board of Agreement (BBA)' report published May 2019 who carried out a research, to examine cavity wall insulation and surveying a small representative sample of NIHE (and private) dwellings – age/type/location. 825 social housing and 113 private dwellings.</p> <p>This report was published in 2019, and found that 63% of Housing Executive dwellings surveyed had cavity wall insulation which was non-compliant with current industry standards. Members noted the key findings and a series of recommendations were also made on how to improve the insulation and associated matters in the housing stock.</p> <p>Members noted the final Action Plan will be published in the coming months</p> <p>Councillor Mathison referred to solid wall construction properties and asked how viable would it be to address all of those properties and the related timeframes, which can't be addressed by the cavity insulation.</p> <p>In response Mr Isherwood explained that there is a significant funding deficit in respect of the major elemental programme, as well as the insulation programme. European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) funding has been obtained for solid wall properties across the Province. He added that properties that need cavity wall Insulation may also need windows, heating upgrade and roof replacements. Mr Isherwood reiterated that funding is primarily the constraint.</p>	

11.0	<u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting</u> It was agreed that at the Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 10 th February at 10 am via Zoom.	Secretary
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The Meeting concluded at 12.15 pm.

NIHE Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan

The Housing Council

13th January 2022

Adrian Blythe

Quality Improvement Manager, NIHE

Background

- **NIHE major CWI installation programme in 1980s**
- **National concerns about condition of CWI**
- **NIHE SERC research report in 2013**
- **Savills' Stock Condition Survey Report 2015**
- **BBA report published May 2019**
 - **Surveyed small representative sample of NIHE (and private) dwellings – age/type/location.**
 - **Overseen by Insulation Performance Panel.**
 - **Findings and recommendations presented to NIHE Central Housing Forum, Elected Representatives & Insulation Industry.**

BBA's key findings & recommendations



- **Findings:**
 - **63% had CWI that is non-compliant with current industry standards (i.e. voids, debris in the cavity).**
 - **84% had defects in external facades.**
 - **In only 1% were there internal damp issues ('Class 1').**
- **Recommendations:**
 - **CWI extraction/replacement process.**
 - **Remediation programme.**
 - **Training for NIHE employees regarding CWI.**
 - **Advice for residents.**
 - **Recompense for past installations.**

Non-compliant CWI



Mortar & Pointing



Action Plan preparation

- **Issues:**
 - **No significant discernible pattern on which to base action.**
 - **Fabric First approach of Energy Efficiency Strategy.**
 - **Stock investment funding shortfall / prioritisation against other work streams.**
 - **Sequencing of remedial works to CWI and facades.**
 - **Insulation industry practices and supply chain capacity.**
- **Draft Action Plan sent out for formal public consultation on 22nd December 2020.**
- **Final Action Plan proposals presented to NIHE Board in August 2021.**
- **Final Action Plan received NIHE Board approval in November 2021.**

CWI Action Plan



- **Remediation/Replacement**
 - Short Term (Class 1 properties investigated and remedied).
 - Medium/Long Term - CWI programme once funding allows
 - Interim position: investigate instances and address where there is a detrimental impact on the structure.
 - Small annual CWI programme.
- **ECMs**
 - Aim to bring cycle down to 8 years in the short term and 5 years in medium to long term.
- **CWI Extractions/Installations**
 - Review and develop extraction/installation process.
 - Review specifications and guarantees duration.

CWI Action Plan



- **Stock Surveys and Data**
 - Annual sample of boroscope and thermal image surveys.
 - Map patterns of failure & remediation works undertaken.
- **NIHE staffing & Training**
 - Set up a specialist team in NIHE responsible for QA, inspection, compliance and monitoring activities for all insulation types.
 - Consider CWI training for specific staff.
- **Residents Advice and Information**
 - Liaise with HCN in how best to obtain and reflect tenants' views.
- **Research**
 - Engage with the insulation industry, research bodies and other parties on bringing forward potential CWI research projects.

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Meeting of Tuesday 7 December 2021 - Dfl Roads Response to Members Queries

Ald J Baird

Item No: 2	Disabled parking bays in the Ballycastle area need re-newed.
R:	The disabled parking bays around Ballyastle have now been added to our current white lining list for renewal.
Item No: 3	Quay Road, Ballycastle - Parking bay white lining across the frontage of private accesses needs removed
R:	Correspondence sent directly to Ald Baird on 27-10-2021 informing her that Dfl Roads Traffic section will amend the on-street parking white lining at this locus. Unfortunately, a definitive timeframe cannot be provided but we hope that these works will be carried out soon.
Item No: 4	Dark Hedges - Can Dfl Roads close the road with some type of barrier etc. that landowners would then have a key for access? Ongoing traffic and parking issues.
R:	Dfl Roads have been working over the past number of years with stakeholders to deal with the traffic here and PSNI are well aware. Dfl Roads are programming work, both in the short term & long term, to enhance signage for car parking, and the turn into the Dark Hedges etc. at this locus.
Item No: 5	Salt box & salt pile replenishment, especially in rural areas.
R:	Salt box & salt pile replenishment currently ongoing in CC&GE areas.
Item No: 6	Conditon of Straid Road, Ballycastle between Maghery Road and Ballycastle
R:	Dfl Roads are aware of the condition of sections of the Straid Road, Ballycastle at this locus and asphalt patching has been identified for inclusion on our works programme.

Cllr C McShane

Item No: 3	Thanks to Colin Harris for the great work carried out regarding Active Travel in the area and great to see the Clare Road, Ballycastle scheme on the programme. Also, would like to discuss the phased approach for an active travel scheme between Ballycastle & Ballyvoy
R:	Active Travel team will be in touch regarding future active travel schemes.

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Meeting of Tuesday 7 December 2021 - DfI Roads Response to Members Queries

Item No: 4	What is the criteria for 40mph speed limit restrictions - I have been lobbying for this on Whitepark Road (at Carin Dhu)?
R:	A copy of the Department's policy and procedures guide for Setting Local Speed Limits in Northern Ireland has been emailed to Councillor McShane.
Item No: 5	Greenway from Ballycastle to Ballymoney? - Council have applied for funding and upcoming meeting with DfI Roads regarding same
R:	This is dealt with by our Blue / Green team and will provide an update directly to the councillor.

Cllr A Schenning

Item No: 2	Two planned resurfacing schemes on Seacoast Road and also an Active Travel scheme. Can you please provide some clarity as to when these schemes will be going ahead?
	The first resurfacing scheme at Drumavally will not be impacted by an Active Travel scheme and as a result will be targeted for commencement towards the end of this financial year. The second phase of the scheme towards Point Rd is part of a cycle/footway scheme which we hope to progress in the 2022/23 year.

Cllr O McMullan

Item No: 2	Request a site meeting with DfI Roads engineers in relation to Gaults Rd & Tromra Road, Cushendall - Traffic issues
R:	A meeting request has been sent to Councillor McMullan.
Item No: 3	Flooding today on Garron Road (due to blocked gullies) and Cushendall village (gullies not taking water) and the machine not lifting the leaves on Ballyeamon Road also contributing to the flooding / blocked gullies in Cushendall village
	The road gullies and outlet pipe which discharges into council lands on Garron Road have now been cleansed. In relation to Ballyeamon Road / Cushendall Village, our road drainage systems are designed to remove normal water volumes from the carriageway and they are not designed to deal

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Meeting of Tuesday 7 December 2021 - DfI Roads Response to Members Queries

	with excessive surface water runoff from the surrounding lands during these heavy prolonged rainfall events. The road gullies are cleansed regularly in accordance with our maintenance standards and we will instruct any additional cleaning that may be required. On occasions the road gullies may become blocked with leaves but generally the sweeping of leaves from the roadside is normally a council function.
Item No 4:	Salt box & salt pile replenishment, especially in rural areas and routes to rural schools
R:	Salt box & salt pile replenishment currently ongoing in CC&GE areas.

Cllr K McGurk

Item No: 1	Queried responses regarding strategic enquiries in the CC&GW area as on numerous occasions she had not received a response. She heard that there may be staffing issues etc.?
R:	08-DEC-2021 Cllr McGurk forwarded original Feb 2021 query - W211011059 - Inspected Mar 2021 - blocked gully/gullies passed to external contractor who confirmed they cleared these at this time. DfI's internal contractor have also now re-cleaned them again week ending 17-DEC-2021 and have advised they are flowing freely. The gullies in question are connected from gully to gully as opposed to a separate carrier pipe so if one gully blocks then the system can overflow. Another related issue is these gullies outlet into an NIW combined sewer. Sometimes in storm events these systems can't handle sudden large volumes of water and the water backs up out through the gully and onto the road. We have asked our NIW colleagues to check the capacity of this sewer and we have advised Cllr McGurk directly on this (MT 131604-21). 27-JAN-2022 NIW have checked their system and report no problems. We propose to carry out more frequent inspections and have provided Cllr McGurk with details for direct contact should the event happen again so that we can inspect the problem at the time.

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 19 January 2022

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

Mr David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
66 Portstewart Road
COLERAINE
BT52 1EY

Dear Chief Executive,

Re: Public Inquiry into Northern Ireland's handling of care home residents

At the Council meeting held on 11 January 2022, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council adopted the following Motion:

This Council fully supports the call by the Commissioner for Older People Eddie Lynch for a public inquiry into Northern Ireland's handling of care home residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, being the first and to date only local authority to call for such an inquiry.

This council restates our established position and calls on those who previously voted against such an inquiry to reconsider their stance in light of the Commissioner for Older People's remarks and the body of evidence on which this is based.

Furthermore this council calls for scrutiny of procedures under Human Rights legislation, particularly Articles 2 and 3 and demands an inquiry applies these as grounding rules within any Terms of Reference.

This council will write to all Stormont Executive Ministers and the other local authorities to seek their support for a public inquiry into this matter.

As you will note, the motion requests that all Councils support our Council's call for a public inquiry into this matter.

The Council trusts you will give this issue due consideration and looks forward to receiving your response.

The Council asked me to write to all Stormont Executive Ministers and the other local authorities to seek their support for a public inquiry into this matter.

The Council trusts that you will give due consideration to this request.

Yours sincerely



Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 09 February 2022

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

Mr David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
66 Portstewart Road
COLERAINE
BT52 1EY

Dear Mr Jackson,

Re: The Implementation of Council support for Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions against Israel Campaign (BDS)

At a Special Policy and Resources meeting held on 31 January 2022, Members asked me to write to all Councils in Northern Ireland regarding their existing Procurement Policies and to clarify whether they would wish to work with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to develop progressive policies in relation to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaign.

The Council trusts you will give this issue due consideration and looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive