

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Corporate Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>24 May 2022</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
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

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Detailed below
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES £45,705 (Item 2.1)</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	62901
Staffing Costs	Staff time (Item 2.2)

<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 correspondence has been received:

2.1 **A Allen, Chief Executive, NILGA** (dated 21 April 2022) (attached)

Correspondence has been received from A Allen, Chief Executive, NILGA outlining the NILGA Corporate Plan 2019-2023, NI Local Government Vision 2021-2023 and Key areas of focus for NILGA in 2022/23.

Council has been invited to pay the NILGA Annual Service Level Fee 2022/2023, a small increase in the subscription of 2.5% to accommodate inflationary and pay award pressures.

Total net Amount	£46,844.00
Total VAT Amount	£ 9,368.80
Invoice Total	£56,212.80

**It is recommended** that Corporate Policy and Resources Committee consider the NILGA Annual Service Level Fee Invoice for 2022/23 of £56,212.80.

2.2 **NILGA** (dated 9 May 2022) (copy correspondence available)

Correspondence has been received from NILGA advising that pre Covid, the NILGA Executive Meetings would normally have been rotated around the 11 Council areas and during the height of the Covid restrictions this stopped. However, NILGA has advised they have now been holding hybrid meetings.

NILGA has requested that Council host their August 2022 meeting in The Council Chamber, in order that IT equipment may be availed of, to host their hybrid meeting.

### **NILGA Requirements**

The NILGA Executive meeting will be held on 12th August 2022. The use of The Council Chamber is required from 10am until approximately 12.30pm for approximately 15 people and NILGA will cover the cost of catering.

### **Cost to host**

Civic Facilities have advised there is no room charge for the use of The Council Chamber and supply of tea/coffee. IT staff time will be required for the meeting setup and duration from 9.00am-1.00pm and one Democratic Services staff member in attendance to oversee arrangements.

*Note* - Council has previously acceded to a similar request to host National Association of Councillors in The Council Chamber in July 2022.

**It is recommended** that Corporate Policy and Resources Committee consider the request from NILGA to host the NILGA Executive meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022 in The Council Chamber as outlined.

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

21<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear David,

Since taking up my role on 1 February 2022, I have been very aware how important it is now, more than ever, that local government in Northern Ireland has a strong and unified voice as we seek to influence both regionally and nationally and advocate for our current and future needs.

Collaboration across the eleven individual councils in Northern Ireland is the key to delivering that strong and unified voice. NILGA is committed to playing its part as a regional political voice of local government in Northern Ireland, in a way that adds value to the roles and responsibilities of each autonomous council and the existing cross council partnership working arrangements.

The NILGA Corporate Plan 2019-2023 and the NI Local Government Vision 2021-2023 (available here [Resources | NILGA](#)) identify the key corporate and sectoral priorities for the current electoral mandate. NILGA continues its work in these areas, specifically:

- **Advocacy & Lobbying:** representing the regional political voice of local government in Northern Ireland, across the rest of the UK and Ireland and in Europe in partnership with each council, SOLACE and other local government associations
- **Economy:** Regeneration, Levelling Up, High Streets Task Force, Rural Development, Recovery & Labour Market issues
- **Elected Member Development:** Digital delivery, learning and development needs and LGTG review
- **Place Shaping & Infrastructure:** Review of the Planning Act, Local Roads, proposed Infrastructure Commission, advocating for LDP progress
- **Reform:** Councils and the new Programme for Government, a strong, post Covid Vision and development framework for councils ahead of our elections, new powers, resources and protection of councils
- **Well Being:** Community Planning Review, Biodiversity, COP26 and Resource Efficiency

As I look to the future, I am conscious of the opportunity to refocus our efforts as we move towards the May 2023 council elections and beyond, taking into account the learning from our work as a sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is informed by my ongoing discussions with NILGA Members, other Elected Members and the Chief Executive of each council as to the opportunities and challenges ahead of us.

**Northern Ireland Local Government Association**

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: [office@nilga.org](mailto:office@nilga.org) web: [www.nilga.org](http://www.nilga.org) twitter: @NI\_LGA

Key areas of focus for NILGA in 2022/23 will be:

- **Advocacy & Lobbying:** enhancing our representation of the regional political voice of local government in Northern Ireland, with a more focused policy agenda aligned to the top priorities of the sector. This will be supported by a co-ordinated approach to advocacy and lobbying led by Elected Members, but visibly supported by council officers and subject matter experts.
- **Partnership Panel:** developing the work of the Partnership Panel in collaboration with the Department for Communities and supported by SOLACE to ensure the Panel meets the needs of all partners. Specifically, this will include the development of an annual work plan aligned to the most pressing regional strategic issues affecting local government, reviewing the Terms of Reference to ensure the Panel is fit for the future, working more closely with SOLACE in preparing the local government side and improving the accountability arrangements for the benefit of all.
- **Refocused Policy Priorities:** taking the opportunity to streamline our policy work informed by the priorities of each council as well as the regional priorities of the sector. This will include much more proactive policy activity working with the NILGA Networks and council officers to scope, explore and agree (where possible) the positions of local government. Examples of this working well already are the work on the High Streets Task Force and Mobile Action Plan. This will enable us to be a strong and unified voice lobbying on and co-designing regional and national policy at the very early stages, rather than responding to already developed consultation exercises.
- **Elected Member Development:** enhancing our existing work by working closely with individual councils and the Local Government Training Group to ensure added value and Elected Membership ownership of their future development needs. Additionally, working with the existing Elected Member leadership in NILGA to capture their experiences of their roles and working with political parties to use those experiences in preparing for roles/responsibilities in the new mandate. This work will include exploring barriers to and diversity in elected office.
- **Sectoral PR and Communications:** delivering a more focused approach to PR and communications. This will be achieved by profiling the policy priorities of local government in Northern Ireland as well as the vital role of local government in place shaping and delivering key public services and in a way that adds value to the work of individual councils. Key opportunities include a revised “Councils Make It Happen” campaign in advance of the May 2023 elections, the local government conference in February 2023 in partnership with SOLACE and the local government awards which recognise the valued contributions of staff.
- **Planning for the Future:** taking the opportunity to work with both Elected Members and staff within NILGA to ensure the organisation is fit for its future role, including a review of NILGA’s constitution. This will also include commencing a new NILGA corporate planning cycle in advance of the 2023-2027 local government mandate and delivering a revised corporate plan inclusive of the needs of each of the individual councils in Northern Ireland as well as the sector regionally.

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To enable the continued delivery of NILGA work, the annual core subscription for your council for 2022/2023 is £46,844, an invoice is attached. You will notice a small increase in the subscription of 2.5% to accommodate the inflationary and pay award pressures we are all facing at present.

On behalf of NILGA, I want to place on record my thanks for the contribution of the NILGA Members from your council, Cllr Margaret Anne McKillop, Ald Norman Hillis, Cllr Dermot Nicholl, Ald Sharon McKillop, Cllr Russell Watton, Cllr Edgar Scott, Ald Joan Baird, Cllr Aaron Callan, and the Officers from your council that so willingly give of their time in supporting the work of NILGA.

In my role as a new Chief Executive, I look forward to continuing the close relationship with both the political and corporate leadership in your council to shape NILGA's regional political leadership role in a way that adds value for the sector and please let me know if there is anything that I can do to assist you, your Members or your wider corporate team.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Alison Allen.

Alison Allen  
Chief Executive

Enc

**Northern Ireland Local Government Association**

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N.I.L.G.A.  
Bradford Court  
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CASTLEREAGH  
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Invoice

Page 1

VAT Reg No: 283057945

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
Cloonavin  
66 Portstewart Road  
COLERAINE  
BT52 1EY

4710

21/04/2022

VAT Reg No:

CAUSEWA1

Quantity	Details	Unit Price	Net Amount	VAT Rate	VAT
1.00	NILGA Annual Service Level Fee 2022-2023	46,844.00	46,844.00	20.00	9,368.80

**Terms: Net 30 Days**  
**For BACS payments:**



**For queries about this invoice please call  
028 9079 8972.**

<b>Total Net Amount</b>	46,844.00
<b>Carriage Net</b>	0.00
<b>Total VAT Amount</b>	9,368.80
<b>Invoice Total</b>	56,212.80