



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>5 December 2023</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>
<b>To be discussed In Committee</b>	<b>No</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	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES/NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>YES/NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>YES/NO</b>

<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**

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

2.0 The following correspondence has been received:

**2.1 James Redmond, Head of Transport Planning and Modelling, Department for Infrastructure, dated 6 November 2023** (copy attached)

Council has received a response, providing an update on the Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP).

**2.2 Stephen Reid, Chief Executive Ards and North Down Borough Council, dated 20 November 2023** (copy attached)

Correspondence received in relation to promoting access to lifelong learning.

**2.3 Chris Heaton Harris MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, dated 20 November 2023** (copy attached)

Correspondence received in relation to appointing Independent Members to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

**2.4 Marie Ward, Chief Executive, Newry Mourne and Down District Council dated 20 November 2023** (copy attached)

Correspondence received to provide thanks for the support and assistance Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council provided during the recent flooding emergency.

## **3.0 Recommendation**

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

Sinéad Duggan  
Member Services Officer  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
Civic Headquarters, Cloonavin  
66 Portstewart Road  
Coleraine  
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By email:  
[info@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:info@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

Your reference:  
Our reference: STOF 0423/2023  
06 November 2023

Dear Sinéad,

## **REGIONAL STRATEGIC TRANSPORT NETWORK TRANSPORT PLAN (RSTNTP)**

Thank you for your letter to the former Permanent Secretary, Julie Harrison, dated 13 September 2023 relating to the RSTNTP.

Following the introduction of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, the Department is in the process of developing a Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland that places the need to reduce transport emissions at its heart. The Strategy will consider the need for change and consider a number of measures that will help to shape our transport network over the coming decade. The Strategy will guide the development of the suite of Transport Plans, including the RSTNTP, and is expected to be published for public consultation in the coming months.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely

**James Redmond**  
Head of Transport Planning and Modelling

SR/cd/CS10.10.2023, item 9a

20 November 2023

Mr David Jackson  
Chief Executive, Causeway, Coast and Glens Council

██████████@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Dear Mr Jackson

At a recent meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council it was discussed and unanimously agreed to put on record that the Council believes:

- Education should be accessible to all who seek it and embedding a culture of lifelong learning in our society is essential to enabling people to realise their potential.
- Part-time flexible learning is crucial to meeting the skills needed to build a modern, inclusive, and green economy.
- Part-time students are a unique demographic, they are more likely to have disabilities, come from disadvantaged backgrounds, have caring responsibilities, such as children or elderly relatives, and in general, be part of a 'hard to reach' group who missed out on full-time study.
- Lifelong learning, including non-formal education, addresses social issues, strengthens communities, and builds civic engagement. It is the most effective tool for meeting social policy objectives and creating positive social change.
- That lifelong learning must become a meaningful and developed policy area with tangible actions and outcomes, underpinned by the wealth of best practice and innovation from across the UK and Ireland.

As a result, Council agreed:

- To assist in the promotion, through the dissemination of material in support of a Lifelong Learning campaign, to inform and raise public awareness of how lifelong learning transforms lives and communities.
- Write to Strangford and North Down MLAs and MPs to prioritise funding for formal and informal part-time education when the Executive is formed.
- Encourage Strangford and North Down MLAs to form an All-Party Group on Lifelong Learning to support and evidence and best-practice informed approach to policy making, in collaboration with adult education bodies and other stakeholders to form a voice for Lifelong Learning in the Assembly when an Executive is formed.



**Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council**

- To write to other Councils in Northern Ireland to take similar action and to write to MPs and MLAs for their respective areas in a similar manner.

I would be grateful if you could please consider this letter and respond accordingly.

Yours sincerely



**Stephen Reid**  
**Chief Executive**



Northern  
Ireland  
Office

**The Rt Hon Chris Heaton-  
Harris MP**

**Secretary of State for  
Northern Ireland**

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SW1A 2HQ

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**David Jackson**  
**Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council**

By email: [REDACTED] [@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk)

20 November 2023

Dear David,

## **INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

Under the terms of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2022, during the current period in which there is no Executive, I can exercise certain appointment functions of Northern Ireland Ministers, including those related to the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB or the Board).

As the current terms of appointment of three Board members expire at the end of March 2024, the Department of Justice will shortly commence a recruitment process in order to fill these vacancies.

As you will be aware, there has been significant change at senior level within the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) over the last number of months, during what has been an unprecedented time for policing. Not only does the Board have a critically important statutory role to secure an efficient and effective police service but it also has the challenge of bringing stability and securing confidence in the PSNI.

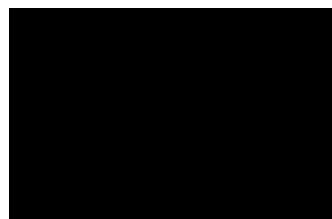
It is, therefore, imperative that appropriate appointments are made to the NIPB to ensure it has the required skills and experience to navigate through these challenging times. It is envisaged that the criteria for the competition are likely to include a need for candidates to demonstrate ability in Organisational Leadership; Strategic Focus; Relationship Management and Influence; and Financial Performance.

Paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 1 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 requires consultation with the First Minister and deputy First Minister, district councils and such other bodies as are considered appropriate before making any appointment of independent members to the Board.

In seeking to appoint independent members to the Board, I am committed to the principles of public appointments on merit, with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process.

If you wish to provide any comments in relation to this process, I should be grateful if you could provide your response by email to [correspondence@nio.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence@nio.gov.uk) by 4 December 2023.

Yours sincerely,



**THE RT HON CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive



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

20 November 2023

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

Dear David

Valerie Harte, Chair of Council and myself are writing to express our gratitude and appreciation on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for the support and assistance you and your team provided during the recent flooding emergency.

The dedication and willingness of your staff to go the extra mile was truly remarkable and made a huge difference during this significant flooding event.

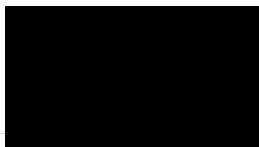
The flood emergency was an unprecedented and required the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies and organisations. The fact that the team from your Council worked alongside our staff and other agencies provided us with much needed support in difficult and challenging conditions.

This support enabled us to clean and assist those businesses/residents in the areas most greatly affected across Newry, Flurrybridge, Newcastle and Downpatrick. Your organisation's support was instrumental in providing the necessary resources and/or boosting our efforts.

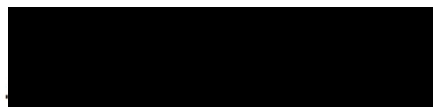
Please convey our sincere thanks to all the staff members across your organisation for their help during this challenging time was very much appreciated.

This collaborative response really did show the very best of Local Government.

Regards



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



**Councillor Valerie Harte**  
**Chairperson**



