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Department for
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Our ref:
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Dear Chief Executive

MINISTER'S INITIAL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR 2024-25

Communities Minister Gordon Lyons has today announced the Department's initial Budget 2024-25 allocations. An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) consultation on the Department's initial Budget 2024-25 allocations will launch on 11 June 2024.

The consultation will be published on the Department's internet site and run until 3 September 2024. The EQIA asks for views on the allocation of funds for the financial year 2024 to 2025.

2024-25 Financial Challenge

The Executive's NI Budget 2024-25 allocations result in the Department facing a significant shortfall in both Resource DEL (£115.8m / 17%) and Capital (£167.3m / 48.5%) against bids submitted for 2024-25. The allocations are further compounded by recent high levels of inflation, adding to the cost of delivering public services, and increased demand for public services.

Difficult decisions have been considered by Minister to shield core public services as far as possible, while living within his Budget for 2024-25. A summary of the Minister's initial Budget 2024-25 decisions is available on the Department's [internet](#) site.



For Councils, this means –

- The Rates Support Grant initial Budget is set at £3.1m for 2024-25, reflecting a reduction of £1.8m on 2023-24, and
- Labour Market Partnership funding to Councils will continue in 2024-25, aligned with business case approvals.

The Minister welcomes comment on any aspects of his initial Budget 2024-25 decisions. Your Council is encouraged to make responses to the Budget 2024-25 EQIA at the earliest opportunity. Responses received will be used to inform the Minister's final allocation of funds for 2024-25, including any necessary mitigations. Responses will also be used to consider further in-year mitigations, budget reallocations or to direct any additional funding that may emerge over the course of the financial year.

If you have any concerns, please liaise with Jeff Glass who will be is available to discuss [REDACTED] [@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@communities-ni.gov.uk), telephone: [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

ANTHONY CARLETON

cc Deirdre Ward