



Title of Report:	General Register Office (GRO) Review of Funding Model for District Registration Offices
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	27th October 2020
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Provide civic leadership to our citizens
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services
	Elected Member Development Training Budget:

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	-
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
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

1.1 Review of Funding Model for District Registration Service

The General Register Office (GRO) is taking forward plans to carry out a review of the funding model in relation to the provision of the registration service. The last review was completed in 2015 and a number of changes have been introduced since then including a new computer system, the Northern Ireland Registration Office System (NIROS), the ability of humanists to conduct civil marriages and the introduction of same sex marriage and opposite sex civil partnerships.

- 1.2 The Department of Finance Business Consultancy Service (BCS) has been engaged to conduct the review and the terms of reference are stated below.

Terms of Reference (TOR)

“To review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the current funding model for DROs and design an optimal funding model.”

Specifically, the review will address the following:

- *Review the workload of each DRO in light of its funding allocation to establish the extent of excess/insufficient capacity in the current system and inform future funding decisions.*
- *Review and verify timings and formulae for each of the working processes/activities used to inform funding decisions.*
- *Verify the appropriateness of funded activities e.g. specific registration tasks, non-registration and core Council activities.*
- *Review working practices and procedures in light of prescribed practices and procedures, and identify any areas for improvement.*
- *Review existing reporting arrangements (e.g. frequency, content etc.) and identify optimal reporting arrangements.*
- *Make recommendations in relation to the optimal future funding model for DROs.*

- 1.3 The review is being completed within an environment of Covid-19 restrictions and therefore where possible meetings, interviews and workshops will be completed virtually using telephone and/or video calling. It is anticipated that this should not reduce access to stakeholders or to the information required and should not therefore act as a constraint to the review. The interviews will be carried out remotely during September and October.

- 1.4 On completion of the review GRO will share a summary of the findings with each district council in order to agree the level of staffing required to deliver the function of the registration service on behalf of the Registrar General.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council notes the content of the report in relation to the General Registry Office Review of Funding Model for District Registration Offices.