



Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	5 November 2019
For Decision or For Information	FOR INFORMATION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

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. Purpose of Report

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

2. The following are listed:

2.1 The Executive Office, Northern Ireland, correspondence dated 3 October 2019

The Executive Office has recently published its Section 75 Equality Annual Progress Report for 2018/2019 and can be located on the Department's Website at <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/annual-report-equality-commission-northern-ireland>.

The Department welcomes Elected Members comments on the proposed action measures in the Equality Annual Report or views on other ways in which the commitment to the Section 75 duties would be better demonstrated.

Further detail is within the correspondence.

2.2 NILGA – Key Outcomes, Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum 27 September 2019 dated 9 October 2019

Correspondence has been received from NILGA with the *Key Outcomes Report* from Forum on Friday 27th September 2019, together with presentations provided by NI Water and NIFRS, and The Drinking Water Inspectorate's most recent Report.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/drinking-water-quality-northern-ireland>

Also included is a template for Councils to complete on issues they wish to be raised at future meetings of the Forum.

The next meeting of the Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum is scheduled to take place on **Friday 31st January 2020, from 10am at the NILGA Offices** in Bradford Court, Castlereagh.

2.3 The Northern Ireland Housing Council – October Housing Council Bulletin

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday 10 October 2019 at 10.30am in the Town Hall, Bangor (report attached).

2.4 Non Domestic Revaluation – Reval2020 Information Sheet for Local Councillors

Reval2020 – Revaluating Properties for Business Rates information sheet for Local Councillors (attached).

2.5 Western Health and Social Care Trust – Invitation to Join Local Engagement Partnership for Adult Learning Disability dated 21 October

Correspondence has been received from the Western Health and Social Care Trust seeking a nomination from Elected Members, with an interest in Learning Disability, to join the Local Engagement Partnership (LEP) for Adult Learning Disability.

The next meeting of the LEP is on Monday 4 November 2019.

2.6 Conradh na Gaeilge – Irish Language Week

Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language week), takes place from the 1st of March to St. Patrick's Day and is the biggest and longest running Irish language festive event in the calendar year. Communities and groups, both locally and abroad, come together to organise events with a focus on the Irish language. These events range from intensive language courses, to street parties and everything in between. We in Conradh na Gaeilge, the Irish language advocacy group, encourage and assist as many groups as possible to involve themselves in some way in **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, no matter how small or big the event.

The Mayor of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council has been asked to engage with the elected representatives of the Council and the Irish speaking community in the Borough so that the Council would promote **Seachtain na Gaeilge** annually within the area.

2.7 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council – Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer – dated 16 October 2019.

At a meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on Monday 7 October 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

"Newry Mourne and Down District Council notes that early diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer offers Patients the best chance of a successful treatment. England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland all currently use the faecal immunochemical test (FIT) and have a lowered age for screening. NHS England are currently trialling Breast Cancer Screening at the lower age of 47 and the upper age of 72.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has written to the other 10 Councils' requesting that they join them in calling on the Permanent Secretary to commit to a review of Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening as outlined.

Members were unanimous in their support for lowered age for breast and bowel cancer screening services in Northern Ireland, along with the use of Faecal Immunochemical tests for bowel cancer screening in line with England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council would ask for your support in calling on the Permanent Secretary to commit to a review of Bowel and Breast Screening.

3.0 It is recommended that Council note the correspondence.

Heloise Brown
Block 2
Knockview Buildings
Stormont Estate
BT4 3SJ
Tel: 02890 528301

Date: 3 October 2019

Dear Consultee,

The Executive Office Section 75 Equality Annual Progress Report

Like all public authorities, the Executive Office has an Equality Scheme which sets out how the Department proposes to fulfil the duties imposed by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act. The Act requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across the S75 categories when carrying out their functions.

Each year all public authorities are required to report to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland on the progress made towards implementing their statutory equality duties. The annual report also covers Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and highlights the measures the Department has taken to encourage disabled people to participate in public life.

The Executive Office has recently published its Section 75 Equality Annual Progress Report for 2018/19 and it has been placed on the Department's Website at <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/annual-report-equality-commission-northern-ireland>

The Department would welcome your comments on the proposed action measures in the Equality Annual Report or views on other ways in which the commitment to the Section 75 duties could be better demonstrated.

Contact the Equality, Human Rights and Delivering Social Change Unit
by Email:-

EqualityandHumanRights@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

Or by post:-

Equality, Human Rights and Delivering Social Change Unit
The Executive Office
Knockview Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SJ

If you have any queries regarding these documents, or their availability
in a different format, please contact us at the address above.

Yours faithfully



Head of Equality & Human Rights

Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum – 27th September 2019

KEY OUTCOMES

The fifth meeting of the *Central- Local Government Political Partnership Forum*, took place on Friday 2019. **This Outcomes Note** is provided by NILGA, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, to provide immediate update to member Councils and Councillors and MLAs appointed to the Forum.

The following MLAs were in attendance on 27th September 2019:

Fra McCann MLA, Sinn Fein; Peter Weir MLA, DUP and Robbie Butler MLA, UUP.
With apologies received from John Blair, Alliance, and Mark H. Durkan MLA, SDLP.

The following Local Government Members were present:

Ald Stephen Moutray, NILGA Office Bearer Alternate; Cllr Stephen Dunne, Ards and North Down Borough Council; Ald Tom McKeown, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council; Ald Billy Ashe MBE, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; Cllr Robert Burgess, Newry Mourne and Down District Council; Cllr Matt Garrett, NILGA Office Bearer /Belfast City Council; Cllr Christine McFlynn, Mid Ulster District Council; Cllr Martin Kearney, NILGA Office Bearer; and Ald Alan McDowell, NILGA Office Bearer.

With apologies received for Cllr Frances Burton, NILGA President / Mid Ulster District Council; Ald Danny Kinahan, NILGA Office Bearer / Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council; Cllr Sheamus Greene, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council; Cllr Geraldine McAteer, Belfast City Council; and Cllr Ruairi McHugh, Derry City and Strabane District Council;

Keynote presentations were provided by: NI Water: Sara Venning, Chief Executive
NIFRS: Michael Graham, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

Local Government Officer Representation:

Louise Kennedy, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Ann McCullough, Ards and North Down Borough Council
NILGA: Derek McCallan, Karen Smyth, Lisa O’Kane, Antoinette Kennedy

KEY OUTCOMES & ACTIONS from the Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum, 27.09.2019

1. Issues raised by Councils for discussion and debate at Forum, 27.09.2019

- (i) Mid and East Antrim Borough Council – Ald Billy Ashe – Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Services Budget Pressures -

In light of recent news speculation concerning NIFRS budget pressures and the reduction of provision at a number of stations, MEABC requested that this issue be raised at the Central

– Local Government Political Partnership Forum. On 27.09.2019, Michael Graham provided a presentation to the Forum; key points raised will be highlighted at Section 4 of this outcome note. *(An electronic copy of NIFRS presentation will also be circulated to the Forum.)*

(ii) Mid Ulster District Council – Cllr Christine Flynn - *The Impact of Infrastructure Deficit on Social Housing Demand and Housing Stress*

Significant wastewater network capacity issues are emerging in the Council area, resulting in new housing developments being turned down by NI Water hence exacerbating social housing demand and housing stress further.

There is also growing concern that the heightening wastewater capacity issues will frustrate Mid Ulster’s growing manufacturing business base.

On 27.09.2019 Sara Venning, Chief Executive of NI Water provided a presentation to the Forum; a synopsis of the key points raised will be provided at Section 3 of this outcome note. *(An electronic copy of NI Water presentation will also be circulated to the Forum).*

Derek McCallan commented that today’s keynote presentations highlight the severe financial pressures our vital services are facing. We want to see the Assembly and Executive up and running to resolve these pressures as soon as possible. In the meantime, local councils need to be given the powers, resources and finances to get things done.

2. Outcomes from Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum, 28.06.2019

Code of Conduct – Concerns raised at the last Forum have been communicated to the Review Group convened by the DfC to review and evaluate the Local Government Legislation Framework over the next 3 years. The Forum will be kept updated.

DoF Business Rates Consultation - The Department of Finance launched their Business Rates Consultation in mid September. The closing date for submissions to the consultation is 11th November 2019.

Action: The Business Rates Consultation will be discussed at the NILGA Executive meeting scheduled for 11th October 2019, and NILGA will be collaborating with the 11 Councils to agree a formal response. A link to the Business Rates Consultation can be found here: <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dof-internal-communications/department-of-finance-business-rates-consultation/>

3. Keynote Presentation 1– Sara Venning, Chief Executive, NI Water.

In her presentation “Risk to Northern Ireland’s Ambition”, Sara Venning spoke about how NI Water plays a vital role in enabling Northern Ireland’s growth; however “Northern Ireland’s growth ambitions” as outlined in the Draft PfG, the Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland,

and Councils' Local Development Plans, may be put at risk due to ageing water and wastewater networks which are struggling with increasing demand and volumes.

As highlighted by Ms Venning in her presentation, Waste water facilities in 99 towns across all 11 Council areas are at or near capacity which will have a knock-on effect on housing, business expansions, Councils local development projects and "city deal" projects. By 2027, it is anticipated that Waste water facilities in a further 33 towns will be at full capacity.

Significant investment in Northern Ireland's ageing water and wastewater networks, (most of which are now over 50 years old) is required urgently as the current funding is not keeping pace with Northern Ireland's needs. At its last PC15 (Price Control 2015 – 2021) NI Water set out that it needed £2.8bn for NI Water infrastructure; the sum they received was £990m.

In summing up, Ms Venning reiterated that NI Water's current governance model is broken, to date it hasn't delivered the investment that Northern Ireland needs. She asked Forum Members to communicate to their parties the critical and urgent funding required to update NI Water's ageing infrastructure and the importance of a new Governance Model for NI Water.

NI Water launched their consultation on their Draft Strategy on 25th September 2019. The closing date for responses to the consultation is 6th November 2019.

Action: NILGA will be developing a regional response with Councils to the NI Water Draft Strategy and would encourage Councils to respond. The link to the NI Water consultation can be found here: <https://www.niwater.com/ourstrategy/#your-say>

Action: As discussed at meeting, NI Water's most recent Drinking Water response is attached with this note.

4. Keynote Presentation 2 – Michael Graham, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, NIFRS

Michael Graham, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer and Alan Walmsley, Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer updated the Forum on the financial constraints currently being faced by the NIFRS (approx. £2.3 million financial pressure) , and details of the Interim Service Delivery Model they have put in place, introduced from 12th August 2019.

NIFRS 2019 / 20 budget allocation is £74,147,643. To ensure services are planned, designed and delivered efficiently (while also remaining focused on community and firefighter safety) the interim Service Delivery Model has been introduced to try to manage the financial constraints the NIFRS is facing.

As of 12th August 2019, there are some stations which will operate with a nucleus crewing of 3 personnel , to be introduced at the following current day crewing stations – (*Station strength will be reduced from 7 to 5 personnel*); Carrickfergus Station, Enniskillen Station, Newtownards Station, Armagh Station, Omagh Station and Portadown Station.

As outlined in the Interim Service Delivery Model, the primary focus is on how to deliver Fire and Rescue Services on a regional basis; to shift the focus of attaching resource to stations; and into the community instead. On-call firefighters provide emergency fire and rescue services to their local communities around the clock.

The role of the NIFRS has evolved over the years. The number of call outs to fires has dropped over the last 10 years; 40 – 60%. The Fire Service is now responding to different kinds of calls, including flooding incidents etc. In terms of “callouts”, 30 – 35% callouts happen between 8am – 6pm, Monday – Friday. 65% of callouts happen at the weekend.

One of the issues causing concern – is the amount of money being spent in overtime – and how the service can reduce to a point where the Service can breakeven. There are currently 805 fulltime firefighters and the Interim Service Delivery Plan sets out how to use 805 firefighters in the best way. The NIFRS are also currently recruiting for part-time / on-call Firefighters in 41 stations across Northern Ireland.

In summing up, Mr Graham advised that the NIFRS still have circa £2.3m million of financial pressure; if additional funding is received in year, consideration will have to be given as where it is best spent. Mr Graham added that the NIFRS are currently working with the Department on the development of a 5 year strategic and transformative programme.

Action: NIFRS will be engaging with Councils over the coming weeks to update Councils on changes to the operational model and proposed plans moving forward.

5. Issues to be addressed at future meetings of the Forum

Mid Ulster Council have raised two issues to be discussed at future meetings of the Central – Local Government Forum:

- (i) Enhanced Health Care – NILGA will seek representation from the Department of Health and the Health and Social Care Board for a regional discussion on the potential for improved health and care delivery across Northern Ireland and the Council role in public health to Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum.

Action: NILGA will seek representation from the Department of Health and the Health and Social Care Board to meet with Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum.

- (ii) Transportation & Rural Isolation –

Action: Initially this issue will be brought to NILGA Placeshaping and Infrastructure Policy and Learning Network for further development with the 11 Councils, and brought to a future meeting of the Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum.

Action: A template for Councils will be circulated with this Outcome Note to communicate issues which they wish to be raised at future meetings of the Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum.

6. Maximising impact of broadband for small businesses & communities

Lisa O’Kane addressed the Forum. The current Project Stratum has raised negative concerns in the 11 Councils as it may not meet expectations in rural areas. The NILGA Office Bearers will be meeting with Noel Lavery, Permanent Secretary, DfE to raise regional concerns about the project and plan for future initiatives.

Action: Lisa O’Kane to provide an update on progress at next meeting.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Central- Local Government Political Partnership Forum will take place on **Friday 31st January 2020, 10am – 12.30pm, in the NILGA Offices, Bradford Court, Castlereaugh.**

NB: Please note that a fuller version of Outcomes and Actions will follow in Draft Minutes.

**For attention of Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum Secretariat
(hosted by NILGA)**

Issues raised at Council to be raised at next / future meeting

Date:

Committee	Comments / Outcome	Proposed Action(s)

Authorised By: Name _____ Council _____

Forwarded to NILGA Secretariat antoINETTE.kennedy@nilga.org on (date:) _____

NB: Criteria

The criteria that will be applied to ensure that issues brought to the Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum are strategic, of regional significance and not being furthered through another avenue are as follows:

- Ability to influence Programme for Government
- Relevant to Programme for Local Government
- Strategic Policy Issue of Regional / National significance
- Not being explicitly furthered in another manner, or through an existing mechanism e.g., TBUC Ministerial Board, Council to specific Department / Minister, NILGA collective council lobbying, NI Executive scrutiny committee
- Cost, Impact, Resource issues affecting more than one tier of government



OCTOBER HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 10th October 2019 at 10.30 am in the Townhall, Bangor at the kind invitation of the Councillor Nick Mathison

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

Members Present

Ald Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Cllr Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
Cllr Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Ald Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Ald Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Ald Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Cllr Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Members Apologies

Ald Phillip Brett	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Cllr Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Ald John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough

The Housing Council's considered various routine items at the Meeting, followed by detailed discussions on the undernoted matters:-

- Members received an update on the Social Housing Reform Programme by Nicola McEvoy, from the Department for Communities.
- A power-point presentation was received by Connor Smith from the Housing Executive on the Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Strategy
- The Housing Executive's Chief Executive gave a verbal update on **Housing Executive's Business from the September Board Meeting**, which included the following items:-
 1. Muckamore Abbey Hospital
 2. Economic Appraisal for 30 Craigy Hill Larne
 3. Economic Appraisal for Orlit Dwelling at 138 Newtownhamilton Road Armagh
 4. ERDF funding for a Thermal Improvement Programme for NIHE Non-Traditional Stock
 5. Ballymena General MEI (Multi Element Improvements)
 6. Waterside Triangle

7. Update on Year Two the Customer Excellence Strategy (CES) 2017/2018 – 2019/2020
 8. Draft Supporting People Strategy 2020-2023
 9. 19th Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission
 10. Update on Community Cohesion Strategy 2015/2020
- Members then received an update from Paul Price and Donna Knowles Department for Communities, on the **Departments' Housing Top Issues** to date, which included:-
 1. Social Newbuild starts
 2. Co-ownership
 3. New Shared Neighborhoods (TBUC)
 4. Programme for Social Reform
 5. Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
 6. Reclassification of Northern Irelands Social Housing Providers
 7. Supporting People Delivery Strategy
 8. Homelessness Strategy
 9. St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena
 10. Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
 11. Increasing Housing Supply
 12. Affordable Warmth Scheme
 13. NIHE Rent Scheme
 14. Welfare Reform Mitigation payments
 15. ERDF Investment Growth and Jobs Programme 2014-2020

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 14th November 2019 at 10.30 am in the Craigavon Civic Centre.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

Contacts

Chair

Tommy Nicholl

Ald.nicholl@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Mobile: 07970012520

Secretary

Kelly Cameron

The Housing Centre

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast BT2 8PB

Kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk

Tel: 028 95982752

Revaluing properties for business rates



INFORMATION FOR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

What is Reval 2020?

Land & Property Services (LPS) is revaluing properties in Northern Ireland for business rates.

Why is LPS carrying out this revaluation?

The last revaluation was held in 2015 based on 2013 rental levels. It's important that we now carry out another revaluation to ensure that business rates stay up to date and reflect local economic changes by distributing rate liability fairly across all sectors in line with changes in rental values.

How will this affect ratepayers?

LPS asked business ratepayers to provide their rental information in 2018. The data collected has been analysed and used to produce new rateable values. These values will be used to calculate rate bills from April 2020.

LPS will release the new values in draft format online in November 2019. Rate bills based on the new values will be issued from 1st April 2020.

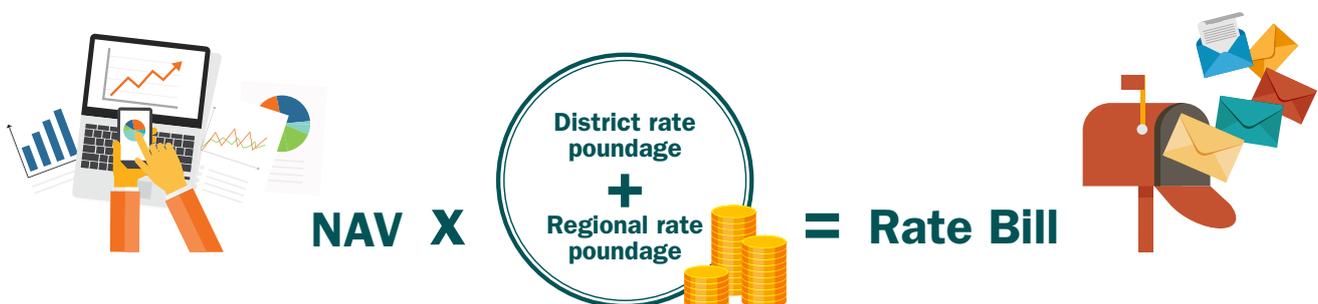
Will rate bills change?

At this stage it is not possible to say what the impact on individual ratepayers will be. As a result of revaluation some rateable values will go down but some will go up. Many will stay almost the same.

The role of councillors

Councillors play an important part in the business rate process by striking the district rate (also known as rate poundage). The district element is a substantial part of the overall bill.

A business rate bill is calculated by multiplying the rateable value of each business property, also known as the NAV, (set by LPS), by the sum of the district rate and the regional rate (set by the Executive).



The rateable value is just one of the elements used to calculate a business owner's final rate bill, so it is the combined district and regional rate that decides the actual level of rates paid.

If the ratepayer is eligible for reliefs, these are applied to the bill by Land & Property Services before the bill is issued.

Ratepayers may contact their councillor about Reval 2020 and the impact on business rate bills.

From 26 November 2019, ratepayers and councillors can check their draft valuation online and compare it with similar properties in the same area. If ratepayers disagree with their draft valuation, they will be able to request an informal review before the new Valuation List is published at the end of March 2020.

How does LPS value property for rates?

There are 3 industry standard methods to assess a rental value.

COMPARATIVE METHOD

LPS analyses all actual rents collected, this method is used for the majority of properties such as shops, offices, warehouses and factories.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE METHOD

LPS analyses trading information such as turnover or throughput. This method is used to assess the rental value of a property where there is limited or no rental evidence available and the property's rental value is related to its level of trade, for example, pubs.

CONTRACTOR'S METHOD

LPS analyses building costs and land values, this method is used to assess the rental value of a property where there is no rental or trading information available, for example, schools and hospitals.

Are there plans to carry out a domestic revaluation?

There are no plans for a revaluation of domestic properties.

Where can I find out more information?

Visit our website www.finance-ni.gov.uk/reval-2020-ni to find out more about Reval, including:

- Key dates;
- Frequently Asked Questions; and
- Short videos on how we calculate business rates and how we assess rates for retail units and licensed premises.





21 October 2019

Invitation to Join Local Engagement Partnership for Adult Learning Disability

Dear Chief Executive

I am writing on behalf of the Western Health and Social Care Trust seeking nomination from your elected members, with an interest in Learning Disability, to join the Local Engagement Partnership (LEP) for Adult Learning Disability.

The LEP was established as part of the NI Social Work Strategy which consists of a range of stakeholders including parents, carers and individuals who use the service as well as senior staff from statutory agencies and third sector groups who interface with the Adult Learning Disability Social Work Service.

The aim of the LEP is to create the opportunity for partner organisations and other stakeholders to demonstrate and share their work, to further enhance understanding of each other's roles and functions, and ultimately to improve the health and social wellbeing of individuals using our service.

I would be grateful if you could please share and discuss this invitation with your elected members and advise Máire Boyle, Head of Service for Learning Disability, at maire.boyle@westerntrust.hscni.net of nominated representative. Máire or a member of her staff can then make contact with the representative and talk through the aim and objectives of the partnership.

The next meeting of the LEP is on Monday 4th November 2019, commencing at 10.30am, Strabane Enterprise Agency, Orchard Road Industrial Estate, Strabane, BT82 9FR.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

DR ANNE KILGALLEN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(English Language version follows)

A Mhéara, a chara,

Is í **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, a bhíonn ar siúl idir 1 Márta go dtí Lá Fhéile Pádraig, an fhéile Ghaeilge is mó agus is fadmarthanaí sa bhliainfhéilire. Tagann pobail agus grúpaí le chéile, go háitiúil agus thar sáile, chun imeachtaí a eagrú le béim ar an Ghaeilge. Bíonn imeachtaí ann ar nós dianchúrsaí teanga, cóisirí sráide, agus go leor eile. Cuidíonn agus spreagann muidne i gConradh na Gaeilge – an grúpa abhcóideachta ar son na Gaeilge – an oiread grúpaí agus is féidir le páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, is cuma cé chomh mór nó chomh beag is atá an imeacht.

Ar an ábhar seo, iarraidimid ort i do ról mar Mhéara ar Chomhairle Chósta an Chlocháin & na nGlinntí dul i dteagmháil le hionadaithe tofa Chósta an Chlocháin & na nGlinntí agus le pobal na Gaeilge i do cheantar i dtreo is go mbeidh **Seachtain na Gaeilge** á cur chun cinn go bliantúil i gceantar na Comhairle.

Molann Conradh na Gaeilge go gcuirfeadh Comhairle Chósta an Chlocháin & na nGlinntí ciste faoi leith ar fáil do ghrúpaí pobail Gaeilge chun cuidiú leo a n-imeachtaí féin a eagrú le linn **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. Tuigtear dúinn go gcuireann roinnt comhairlí scéimeanna miondeontais téamacha ar fáil go bliantúil agus creidimid go gcuirfeadh a leithéid go mór leis an athbheochan leanúnach sa Ghaeilge ag leibhéal an phobail, athbheochan a bhfuil an iomaí buntáiste ag baint léi.

Ina theannta sin, mholfaimís don Chomhairle plé a dhéanamh le pobal na Gaeilge go háitiúil chun amharc ar na bealaí is fearr le hardán a chur ar fáil le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an phobal le linn **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. Tá Conradh na Gaeilge ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht a éascú leis an phobal áitiúil agus chun ceist ar bith eile a bhaineann le cosaint agus cur chun cinn na Gaeilge a phlé.

Le meas,
Seán Ó Murchadha
Oifigeach Ardú Feasachta
Conradh na Gaeilge
028 30257812 / 07548 393601

Conradh na Gaeilge
Gaeláras Mhic Ardghail
Sráid an tSéipéil
An tIúr
BT34 2DZ

Dear Mayor,

Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language week), which takes place from the 1st of March to St. Patrick's Day, is the biggest and longest running Irish language festive event in the calendar year. Communities and groups, both locally and abroad, come together to organise events with a focus on the Irish language. These events range from intensive language courses, to street parties and everything in between. We in Conradh na Gaeilge, the Irish language advocacy group, encourage and assist as many groups as possible to involve themselves in some way in **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, no matter how small or big the event.

With this in mind, we would ask you as Mayor of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council to engage with the elected representatives of the council and the Irish speaking community in your borough so that the council would promote **Seachtain na Gaeilge** annually within its area.

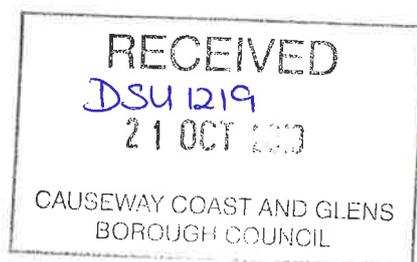
Conradh na Gaeilge asks that your council provide a specific fund to local Irish language community groups to support them to organise their own events during **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. We are aware that many councils provide thematic small grant schemes annually and we believe this would contribute significantly to the ongoing revival of Irish at community level, with all of the benefits that flow from that.

Furthermore, we would encourage Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council to engage with the local Irish Language community to explore ways to best showcase their celebration of Irish within the dates of **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. Conradh na Gaeilge would be available to facilitate engagements with the local community to assist the council with this with and with any other issue in relation to the protection and promotion of the language.

Le meas,

Seán Ó Murchadha
Language Awareness Officer
Conradh na Gaeilge
028 30257812 / 07548 393601

Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive



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

M/2

16 October 2019

Mr David Jackson
CEO
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Council HQ
Cloonanvin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

Dear Mr Jackson

Re: Early Diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer

At a meeting of Newry Mourne and Down District Council held on Monday 7 October 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

"Newry Mourne and Down District Council notes that early diagnosis of Bowel and Breast Cancer offers Patients the best chance of a successful treatment. England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland all currently use the faecal immunochemical test (FIT) and have a lowered age for screening. NHS England are currently trialling Breast Cancer Screening at the lower age of 47 and the upper age of 72.

This Council will write to the Permanent Secretary for Health Mr Richard Pangelley highlighting the difference in the screening service provision across the UK and Ireland and calling for a review into Bowel Cancer Screening services in the North and to follow the English NHS lead in trialling Breast Cancer Screening at a lower age here in Northern Ireland.

The Council will write to the 10 other Councils requesting that they join Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in calling on the Permanent Secretary to commit to a review of Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening as outlined."

Members were unanimous in their support for lowered age for breast and bowel cancer screening services in Northern Ireland, along with the use of Faecal Immunochemical tests for bowel cancer screening in line with England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council would ask for your support in calling on the Permanent Secretary to commit to a review of Bowel and Breast Screening.

Yours sincerely

Mr Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive

/DST

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