

Ref: CPR141204

Mr Mark H Durkan MLA
Minister for the Environment
Department of Environment
Goodwood House
44 - 58 May Street
Town Parks
Belfast
BT1 4NN

12th December 2014

Dear Minister

Provision of ICT equipment for Planning Function

As you are aware Causeway Coast and Glens District Council is working with your Department and local Planning officials to ensure the smooth transition of the Planning function to local government. Work is progressing well and is operationally on track for the 1st of April 2015. A core element of the implementation is the assessment and connection of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment required by Planning staff to ensure seamless transition on vesting day.

At a recent meeting of the Shadow Council its Elected Members raised serious concerns about a shortfall in funding from your Department towards the replacement of ICT equipment. Members were provided with figures for the purchase of equipment and associated costs which revealed a net cost to Council of £35,070. It was the opinion of Members that the £117 allowance per staff member transferring from your Department is not sufficient to cover the costs of this part of the transfer. Councillors felt that this countered the agreed principle that cost at the point of transfer should be neutral to the local ratepayer.

Members therefore ask that the Department revisit the proposed funding for the provision of ICT equipment for the Planning function and set right the shortfall.

Yours sincerely

David Jackson MBE
Clerk and Chief Executive