

<b>Programme for Government Consultation Draft Response</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> December 2016</b>
<b>Council Meeting</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Leader and Champion
<b>Outcome</b>	Provide civic leadership
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Director of Performance
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	N/A

## **1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 This report seeks to update Council on the recent Programme for Government consultation 2016-2021 (presented to Council in November 2016) which was launched in late October and to enable Council to consider and agree a response. The consultation document and related papers are available to view on the NI Executive Website at: <http://tinyurl.com/pfqni>. The closing date for comments is 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The draft Programme for Government Framework (PfG) was launched on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016. In June 2016 Council agreed to endorse NILGA's Framework Guidance Response to the draft PfG Framework.
- 2.2 Subsequently, the Executive Office published the Programme for Government consultation which was reported to Council in November 2016.
- 2.3 The NI Executive's overview states that "The Programme for Government (PfG) contains 14 strategic outcomes which, taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing. They touch on every aspect of government, including the attainment of good health and education, economic success and confident and peaceful communities. In addition to merely fulfilling our statutory obligations, we will in future be able to target those things that make real improvements to the quality of life for the citizen.

The outcomes are supported by 48 indicators which will allow us to assess if we are turning the curve in the right direction. These will show how the Executive is performing in relation to the outcomes and will provide a basis to monitor progress and take corrective action.

The draft Programme for Government reflects the messages that emerged from the extensive stakeholder engagement and consultation process which also showed that there is strong support for the approach adopted.

In due course, the Programme for Government will provide the strategic context for other key Executive strategy documents, including the Investment Strategy, the Economic Strategy and a Social Strategy. The Programme will also inform the development of the Executive's budget over the course of this mandate and provide a mechanism for ensuring our limited funds are best directed to where they can contribute most."

### **3.0 Council's Response**

3.1 The Programme for Government team delivered an information workshop to Members on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix A. The main comments made by Members included the following:

- Members sought further detail on how the 14 outcomes are to be delivered and indicators measured.
- The impact on citizens of the PfG.
- Was due regard given to research previously carried out when the PfG was drafted?
- How does the PfG affect community planning?

3.2 NILGA has drafted a second level formal response to the consultation on the Programme for Government and has directly aligned this to the responses Councils submitted to the Draft Programme for Government Framework in July 2016. A copy of NILGA's response is attached at Appendix B.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

Council is asked to consider the draft NILGA response to the Programme for Government Consultation and to agree comments to be submitted to the consultation.