

<b>Consultation 'Future Delivery of Electoral Services in Northern Ireland'</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> December 2016</b>
<b>Council Meeting</b> For decision	

<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 Members on the draft response to the consultation on the Future Delivery of Electoral Services in Northern Ireland which was launched by the Northern Ireland Office in October 2016 and to enable Council to agree a response to the consultation. The closing date for responses is 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 In November 2016 Members were advised of the consultation and the key issues contained in the paper. The consultation paper is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-delivery-of-electoral-services-in-northern-ireland>.
- 2.2 The key issues outlined in the consultation involve a greater role for local councils in the delivery of electoral services in terms of digital registration, advice and support to local residents and taking on more responsibility for managing elections.
- 2.3 Additional information has been provided to Members to inform consideration of the consultation document. NIPSA presented to Members at a workshop in August on the closure of Regional Electoral Offices, a copy of the presentation is available at <https://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/council/timetable-of-meetings>  
In November 2016 Members received a copy of NIPSA's response to the consultation which is attached at Appendix B. In addition Members have also received a copy of NILGA's response to the consultation which is attached at Appendix C.

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

- 3.1 A draft response is attached at Appendix D for consideration. This response addresses the questions posed in the response template. It is noted that no assessment of the funding for the transferring functions has been included in the consultation document which makes it difficult to assess the impact on Council's Human Resources function, payroll and election related activities.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that Council considers the content of the draft response presented.