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| CONSULTATION ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT 2016 ONWARDS | 16th February 2016 |
| CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE | |

| Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19) | |
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| Strategic Theme | Innovation and Transformation |
| Outcome | Performance Improvement |
| Lead Officer | Stephen McMaw |
| Cost: (If applicable) | N/A |

1.0 Background

- 1.1** The Department of the Environment (DoE) is seeking views from consultees on draft Guidance for Councils' Performance Improvement from April 2016 onwards. The aim is to provide statutory guidance to assist councils to comply with the performance improvement duty under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 (the Act).
- 1.2** Part 12 of the Act put in place a new framework to support continuous improvement in the delivery of council services, in the context of strategic objectives and issues that are important to those who receive the services. Councils are required to gather information to assess improvements in their services and to report annually on their performance against indicators which they have either set themselves or that have been set by Central Government.
- 1.3** Local Government Circular LG26/2015 (Guidance for Local Government Performance Improvement) provided the statutory guidance for the first year of operation for general duty for performance improvement. Guidance is therefore required for 2016 onwards. The Department of the Environment has now issued a draft guidance document which is attached as Appendix 1. The guidance is subject to a 12 week consultation period with responses to be submitted no later than 25th February 2016.
- 1.4** Responses are invited to the following question:
- Do you think that the proposed guidance will enable councils to comply with the duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions?***

2.0 Proposed Response

- 2.1** The 11 Councils have been working collaboratively through the Local Government Performance Improvement Sub-Group, to provide support to Councils in dealing with the issues relating to the new Performance Duty contained within the Act. The group has completed work on the consultation relating to the draft Guidance for Councils' Performance Improvement from April 2016 onwards. The issues raised by the Sub Group are attached as Appendix 2.
- 2.2** The draft response detailed in Appendix 2 contains a wide range of issues that require attention by the DoE post consultation.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council approve the response to the consultation on the Draft Guidance for Local Government Performance Improvement 2016 onwards as detailed in Appendix 2.