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| Report on | Response to NILGA Consultation: Council Reform to Date |
| Date of Meeting | Thursday 5 th March 2020 |
| Reporting Officer | P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services |
| Contact Officer | P Moffett, Head of democratic Services |

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| Is this report restricted for confidential business? | Yes | |
| If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon | No | x |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report |
| 1.1 | To provide members with an opportunity to give consideration to a draft response to the Northern Ireland Local Government (NILGA) consultation on <i>Council Reform to Date-Driving What's to Come</i> . |
| 2.0 | Background |
| 2.1 | NILGA corresponded with the Council in late January 2020 to give notification that it would be issuing 3 strategic consultations for comment with a focus on Council Led Reform, the £3.5 billion Shared Prosperity Fund and Shared Services. |
| 2.2. | A consultation entitled, <i>Council Reform to Date/Driving What's to Come</i> has been issued to the Council for comment. A copy of the consultation, together with correspondence from the NILGA Chief Executive is attached as appendix A to this report. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | <p>The consultation emanates from the work of NILGA's Reform, Devolution & Improvement Policy and Learning Network. The consultation seeks feedback on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least two major corporate successes for your Council that RPA has triggered and a similar number of barriers to success which might be overcome by further legislation, policy and/or resource changes in wider government. 2. Would further reform improvements ("RPA part II") - an expansion of Council's role - be initially best served via commissioning actual evidence of real benefits, during early & mid 2020 across all councils in preparation for a future electoral term, or should an alternative method / timescale be sought? 3. At strategic policy level rather than concentrating on specific functions, would Council prefer greater legislative powers e.g. to better enable community planning, regeneration, growth / city deals, and locally led decision taking requiring government departments to agree to Council's investment priorities? What specific legislation or actions does Council wish to see? |

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| 3.2 | <p>4. Does Council have a corporate wish to see neighbourhood services delivered by councils in other jurisdictions delivered as part of its portfolio / directly influenced by it (specific services can be listed as desirable, or not)?</p> <p>5. To protect and ensure adequate resources for councils, NILGA has produced a New Burdens Doctrine. All councils in the rest of the UK are protected by this, in some form to ensure legally that resources are guaranteed to be adequate to meet transferred responsibilities. Does Council consider this protection a "must have" in advance of any further transfer of powers, resources and / or services?</p> <p>6. NILGA believes that council led shared services are essential to the sustainability of local government here. Is Council open to engaging in sector wide strategic discussions around shared services and collaboration, building on some existing cluster work, in order to define a strategic, sector wide vision and approach to this? What are Council's key requirements, if any, in terms of taking such discussions forward?</p> <p>Members are asked to give consideration to the draft response detailed as appendix B to this report.</p> |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | <p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: not applicable</p> <p>Human: not applicable</p> <p>Risk Management: not applicable</p> |
| 4.2 | <p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: not applicable</p> |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | That members give consideration to the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) consultation on Council Reform to Date and draft response |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached & References |
| | <p>Appendix A: Correspondence from Chief Executive of NILGA</p> <p>Appendix B: Response (draft) to NILGA Consultation: Council Reform to Date</p> |