

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Our ref: C/209/2019

9 December 2019

Mr Anthony Tohill
CEO
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 DT

Dear Mr Tohill

Re: Fire and Rescue Budget

At a Meeting of Newry Mourne & Down District Council held on Monday 2 December 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

"That this Council contact Mr Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, and ask all other Councils in the North to do likewise, to address the significant shortfall on the proposed budget for the fire and rescue service. The continuing cutting of budgets has left lifesaving services at a critical level. We also call on Mr Pengelly to look again at expanding and sharing emergency services and cover, especially in rural areas".

Newry Mourne and Down District Council would ask for your support in calling on the Permanent Secretary to address these concerns.

Yours sincerely,


Marie Ward
Chief Executive

/PMcK

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Councillor Martin Kearney
Mid Ulster District Council

info@midulstercouncil.org

Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559
Fax: 02890520573

Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP5075
SGM-0897-2019

Date: 23 December 2019

Dear Councillor Kearney

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2019 regarding the introduction of a soft opt-out organ donation legislation.

As you will be aware, following a detailed examination of all aspects of opt out systems, the Northern Ireland (NI) Assembly decided in 2016 not to proceed with specific legislation to introduce an opt out system as a possible means of increasing levels of organ donation in Northern Ireland. However, the Assembly, in recognition of the importance of promoting organ donation, passed legislation that places a statutory duty on the Department of Health to:

- promote transplantation; and
- increase awareness about transplantation and the donation of human organs.

The legislation also requires the Department to lay before the Assembly an annual report about transplantation in that year. The report must include every five years the opinion of the Department as to whether the legislation has been effective in promoting transplantation and any recommendations the Department considers appropriate for amending the law so as to further promote transplantation. This therefore provides the Assembly with the opportunity to review the policy at appropriate intervals. A Commencement Order is required to enact the statutory duty and this is currently under consideration; however, this has not delayed work progressing in this area.

In December 2018 the Department also launched a Policy Statement giving effect to the requirement to promote organ donation and transplantation. The aim of the policy

statement is to introduce a coordinated approach to promotion, communication, education and medical workforce training, drawing from best practice.

Work on implementing the Policy Statement recently got underway with the establishment of an Organ Donation Steering Group to oversee its implementation. Arrangements are also being made to recruit a Regional Organ Donation Promotion Manager/Co-Ordinator, whose role will include working with local Councils, and to establish a sub-group for charities to further help to implement the Policy Statement.

Whilst there are currently no plans to introduce opt out legislation in Northern Ireland, I trust this letter assures you that work is ongoing to achieve higher rates of donation and transplantation to ensure that more people are able to receive the gift of an organ.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



RICHARD PENGELLY



**From: Tracy Meharg
Permanent Secretary**

**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG**

**Telephone: 028 90 823301
E-mail: tracy.meharg@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our Ref: PSC 1460.19
Date: 23 December 2019**

**Mr Martin Kearney
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
Co. Tyrone
BT71 6DT**

By e-mail: chair@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Martin,

I am responding to your letter dated 4 December 2019, regarding the use of courthouses for welfare tribunal hearings.

As you are aware The Appeals Service (TAS) provide administrative support to independent tribunals set up by legislation to hear appeals against decisions made by my Department, including Child Maintenance Service, and also Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Land and Property Service (LPS) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Appeals are heard in both public and privately owned venues throughout Northern Ireland, based on factors including the facilities available in each area, the specific needs of individual cases and value for money.

Before any venue is confirmed as suitable for an appeal tribunal hearing, TAS completes a health and safety risk assessment of the location and facilities. The risk assessment is completed based on the following criteria that applies to all appeal case types:

- **Accessibility/DDA compliance;**
- **Location close to car parks/public transport routes;**
- **Size of rooms available;**
- **Location of rooms;**
- **Privacy;**

- Lighting;
- Ventilation/Heating;
- Standard of seating and tables available;
- Facilities offered re refreshments;
- Toilet facilities;
- Security;
- First aid trained staff available;
- Fire safety requirements; and
- Photocopying/telephone facilities available.

My Department holds hearings in bespoke premises at Cleaver House in Belfast and is currently in the process of refurbishing Omagh Library to accommodate appeals hearings. This should be available for tribunal hearings in 2020-21. However, alternative venues are also used so as to reduce travel times for appellants and help reduce delay in securing a hearing date.

My Department currently uses courthouses in order to allow TAS to arrange more tribunal sessions. On occasions where availability causes difficulties, other venues may be deemed suitable for consideration following a risk assessment on facilities, and thereafter in accordance with procurement guidelines.

Rented facilities offer a less formal environment than a courthouse and tend to offer limited access to private waiting areas or consultation rooms, something which tribunal users have complained about in the past.

Courthouses are regularly used for civil and family justice matters. Appeal tribunals are part of a statutory process, adjudicated by judicial office holders and therefore listing appeals in courthouses is entirely consistent with the standing and independence of these arrangements. However, I would welcome sight of Mid Ulster District Council's findings regarding the possibility of offering Council facilities for Appeals tribunals.

In relation to the delay in hearing appeals, I am currently liaising with the President of the Appeal Tribunals in order to expedite a resolution to this matter. Therefore there is no need for the establishment of a review panel to examine the issue.

I hope this goes some way towards addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,



TRACY MEHARG
PERMANENT SECRETARY

From: Nash, Denise <Denise.Nash@courtsni.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 December 2019 14:08
To: Mid Ulster Info <info@midulstercouncil.org>
Subject: Use of Court houses for appeals

Good morning,
I refer to the letter I received yesterday from Councillor Martin Kearney regarding the use of court houses for welfare appeals.
I understand that Ms Meharg, Permanent Secretary DfC, has written to Mr Kearney outlining the position.

Kind regards
Denise Nash

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denise Nash', with a stylized, cursive script.

Denise Nash | Head of The Appeals Service | Department for Communities
4th Floor Cleaver House | 3 Donegall Square North| Belfast | BT1 5GA
Contact: denise.nash@courtsni.gov.uk **Tel:** (028) 90544 097 | **DD:** 44097

18th December 2019

Dear Mr. McCreesh,

Re: Cookstown to Antrim Area Hospital Service

Further to our meeting on Thursday 29th August regarding the current service provision from the Cookstown Area to Antrim Area Hospital, I have now taken time to review the service provision and consider the proposals you had put forward at the meeting.

During our meeting we had agreed that altering the 212 service to operate via Antrim Hospital was not feasible due to the time taken to traverse through the hospital would have an adverse impact on the vast majority of passengers who use this service to travel between Belfast and Derry/Londonderry and the towns in between.

The Committee put forward a proposal asking that the 212 service would come off at Ballymartin P&R and allow passengers to transfer onto the Airport Service (300 Service) which would then serve Antrim Hospital. Again we have considered this option but would not be able to put this option in place. The Airport Service operates as a frequent service between Belfast City Centre and Belfast International Airport, the current route comes off the M2 at Ballymartin P&R and then services Templepatrick on route to the Airport. Any detour of this service to Antrim Area Hospital would add an additional 14 miles of a detour onto the route which again would impact on the vast majority of customers who use this service to travel between the Airport and Belfast City Centre.

From our discussions at the meeting I do recognise that the public transport service provision between Cookstown and Antrim Area Hospital is not attractive and requires two service changes with waiting time in between. In order to improve this service, I have taken an extensive review of the services and bus workings within the Magherfelt/Cookstown area and have been able to alter the timetable to make this journey more appealing. I have detailed below a new version of the timetable that only requires one bus change in Antrim and I have been able to include a daily direct service from Cookstown to Antrim Hospital at 10.00 with a direct return service at 13.35. I have detailed a simplified version of the new time table below.

Monday – Friday

Cookstown Bus Station	06.50	08.30	10.00	11.30	13.30	15.10
Antrim Area Hospital	08.40	10.05	11.35	13.05	15.01	17.05
	1 bus change	2 bus changes	Direct Service	1 bus change	1 bus change	1 bus change

Antrim Area Hospital	11.05	12.35	13.35	16.06
Cookstown Bus Station	12.08	14.23	15.08	17.58
	1 bus change	1 bus change	Direct Service	1 bus change

As you can see from the attached timetable, we have been able to reschedule a number of services to ensure the passenger has minimal service changes to get to their destination as previously all journeys between Cookstown and Antrim Area Hospital required two service changes to complete the journey. This helps make the service more attractive and less arduous for those passengers who may have accessibility issues. The 13.35 service out of Antrim Hospital is an additional service that I have added into the timetable.

We also discussed during the meeting that any information from Antrim Hospital regarding the travel patterns of the hospital users from the Cookstown Area along with the number of weekly appointments would also be useful in helping to inform any alterations to the service. However, in the absence of this information I have still decided to review how we can alter the timetable to improve the service to the hospital from the Cookstown Area.

In order to progress this new refreshed timetable there are some scheduling alterations that need to be implemented before this can be operated so I would therefore propose to implement this new timetable from March 2020. I am happy to further meet to discuss of proposal if need be along with any assistance that the Council or the Hospital could help to promote the use of this service.

I would also like to apologise in the delay in responding back to you on this request but due to the scheduling configurations and increased cost to deliver this new timetable I had to seek further authorisation for this to be accepted as part of our future budget.

Thanks again for taking time to meet with me and discuss the options of improving this service and please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to further discuss.

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Woods
Northern Area Manager
Ulsterbus

Anthony Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Council Offices
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

13th January 2020

Dear Anthony

I have pleasure in enclosing NILGA's Annual Investment & Work Plan for 2020/21, as part of NILGA's all council approved Corporate Plan 2020- 2023 for the present electoral term.

This year's work has been designed by your council members, officers and finalised by NILGA's all council Executive and cross Party appointed officer bearers. We are fully integrated into the work requirements of Mid Ulster District Council and must recognise the work of your members and officers – this past twelve months, now and into the challenging year ahead, with a productive agenda in terms of our all Council, Member & Officer, Policy & Learning Networks, new to this Corporate Plan and part of the sector's transformation agenda.

The Assembly has returned, and we will be an "ever present" at it, working with and for your council and your 10 counterparts. This is a year of major challenge for local government – financially, legislatively, policy and performance wise. Despite such challenges your team in Mid Ulster will have dynamic support from NILGA every day, including lobbying to gain new resources, protect grants, secure a fair and affordable pay deal for council's 12000 staff, strengthen the NI Local Government Act, get new money rather than increased rates cash into your investment & growth plans, and champion what you do by celebrating and communicating your successes and seeking solutions to service and governance difficulties you encounter with other institutions.

The Work Plan regionally (all councils) and specifically for Mid Ulster fulfils the sector's requirements but has been carefully designed to adapt to the wider political and fiscal environment you and the other 10 councils are operating within regionally, nationally and trans-nationally. A restored Assembly has been anticipated but so too has national & Commonwealth level negotiations on matters as important as NI's £3.5 billion share of the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

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Councils, NILGA asserts, **should be lead deliverers of such funding**, not relying on transactional letters of offer and exacting criteria from other parts of government which inhibits locally led decision taking and investment. We have also prepared statutory draft legislative papers to protect you – a New Burdens Insurance Policy if you like - from transfers of responsibility which come with inadequate resources.

We would particularly like to thank the following members and officers from Mid Ulster for their advice and participation throughout the year: the Full and Executive members – Cllr Wills Robinson, Cllr Darren Totten, Cllr Frances Burton, Cllr Niamh Doris, Cllr Mark Glasgow, Cllr Martin Kearney, Cllr Sean McGuigan and Cllr Sean McPeake. This cross party, combined leadership is supported by excellent working relationships with you and your officer team, including Adrian McCreesh, Andrew Cassells, Fiona McClements, Michael McCrory, JJ Tohill, Chris Boomer, Eileen Forde and Fiona McKeown.

We will continue to use the council's venues such as Seamus Heaney Home Place, Magherafelt and Dungannon Civic Centres for member and officer training, awareness events on matters as important, yet diverse, as the Code of Conduct, new economic investment opportunities, Strategic Planning, Civic Leadership, post EU investment, and the emerging devolution campaign and actions which you and the 10 councils will shortly be consulted with and co-design.

NILGA continues to yield very high levels of performance and value for money, as the Work Plan provides testimony of, similarly, you will note from the Benefits Statement provided that despite below 1% average uplifts in investment since 2014, our work is more deeply performance and council led, yielding >20 times return per annum on the investment.

Please thank your members and officer team; other than confirming acceptance do please let me know if there is anything that you, members and the Corporate team further require.

I look forward to working with you in 2020/21 as your Local Government Association.

Yours sincerely



Derek McCallan
Chief Executive

Enc

Annual Investment & Workplan for 2020/21
NILGA Benefits Infographic
NILGA Benefits Statement



MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL INVESTMENT & WORK PLAN – THE 1st PHASE OF NILGA’S CORPORATE PLAN 2019 – 2023



**Ulster in Bloom &
Britain in Bloom**



Member Development



Local Government Awards

INTRODUCTION

The most complex year for councils in Northern Ireland is upon us. Delivering public services of a high standard at affordable costs to ratepayers is a huge challenge compounded by uncertainty in constitutional, legislative, electoral, policy and performance terms, for the local government sector in Northern Ireland. NILGA has a dynamic regional programme of work, governed and owned by the 11 councils through member and officer participation, across VITAL policy and learning networks that will yield over £1 million p.a. in investment savings per council in the coming year.

The Work Plan for the collective councils and specifically for your authority’s elected members and corporate management team has been co-designed by all 11 bodies as well as strategic partners including SIB & APSE, to fulfil your specific requirements whilst as the national voice of local government, stand together strongly, clearly and as one voice to protect and sustain local government in Northern Ireland.

It supports a **substantial forward planning programme** to ensure councils are skilled, sustainable and resilient now we have 462 returned councillors since May 2019 and massive LOCAL investment planned as part of economic, community and sustainable development across the towns, villages and communities of Mid Ulster. Delivery will focus on regionally and sub regionally co-ordinated work programmes and learning events which **develop, promote and protect** councils in equal measure.

We will provide evidence on policy which makes it easier for councils to get things done and makes it easier for councils to develop & sustain with non-rates funding more locally led partnerships. This includes the delivery of robust, evidence-based representation on matters like an Environment Strategy, stronger Community Planning legislation, devolution within Northern Ireland and drawing in new investment for every council via the £3.5 billion Shared Prosperity Fund. A revitalised Legislative Assembly will see NILGA – formally in Committee and informally through evidence-based lobbying - rolling out the delivery of an improved Local Government Act, acceptable performance and ethical standards policies and protected / additional funding for councils. It prioritises elected member learning & development, new models of investment and best practice, the sharing of very practical ideas and projects which deliver locality based planning, economic development, civic leadership, regulatory and compliance work, all of which materially assists your Corporate Plan and key support strategies.

Executive Summary: Key Work for the coming year

PROTECT

- Engage in a full year of dynamic, formal policy & resource work with the **restored Legislative Assembly** at Stormont - putting the needs of local councils and communities front and centre with newly appointed Ministers, Committees and the **Central - Local Partnership Panel** for which NILGA is joint secretariat
- Finalise in 2020 a **National Pay Agreement** for 12000+ staff, support performance appraisal and Green Book queries across all 11 councils
- Development of a modern forward-thinking **Programme for Local Government 2021 - 2030**
- Extensive **engagement** with the National UK Local Government Forum, NI Affairs Committee & Irish Regional Assemblies
- Putting councils' needs foremost in joint work with government on an overarching **Rates Review, Entrepreneurial & Environment Strategies**, plus other key policies, strategies and legislation, to protect, advocate and sustain the 11 councils in Northern Ireland.
- Chair the **National Association of Regional Employers** in 2020-21, with associated **procurement benefits**, and **guidance** on Chief Officer pay, resilience and performance
- **Lobbying** for and with councils, on matters such as infrastructure investment and new rates models, to sustain future local government
- Participation in **strategic national work** within the UK & Ireland wide Local Government Group, including the £3.5 billion **Shared Prosperity Fund** for NI and the launch of the **Civility in Public Life initiative**.
- Support the policy, partnership, lobbying and legislative work of **the NI Strategic Migration Partnership**, drawing on its expertise to further community planning and knowledge at council level
- Seek out potential additional funding & benefits for councils from **European Entrepreneurial Region award**
- Commission work on a new **Devolution Framework** for Northern Ireland, supported by a New Burdens Framework, firstly & materially involving direct consultation with & input by councils

PROMOTE

- **“Your Local Council, Delivering for All”** initiative – knowledge bank/social media/regular media/community showcases – to communicate the pivotal role of councils in the community
- **8 Web Bulletins** per year, Press Releases, presentations, party conference visibility
- Delivery of **Ulster in Bloom**
- Delivery of **Annual Flagship Conference and Awards** event, with SOLACE (February 2021)
- Collaboration with other LGAs to lobby DEXEU and other government departments to ensure councils are **materially resourced for Brexit impacts** and that **there is adequate and early consultation for all matters repatriated under the EU Withdrawal Bill**
- Design, develop & bid for a 52 nation **Commonwealth Local Government Forum Investment Summit**, in partnership with councils and Invest NI to bring buyers and investment into council areas.
- Provision of guidance and support to members of the **EU Committee of the Regions and relevant EU Steering and Monitoring Committees; seeking further benefits**
- **Improved communication** with councils, a new **constitution and investment framework** and **improved governance** for NILGA

DEVELOP

- Co-ordination of **20 learning and networking events** on key issues such as Devolution, Improvement, Economy, Broadband, Housing, Energy, Tackling Poverty, Leadership, Planning, Climate Action and Ethical Standards.
- Roll out of the first full phase of the **NI Elected Member Development Programme**, co-designed with councils, NAC and LGTG
- Provision of **specific policy advice, guidance** and **regional co-ordination** on key policy areas
- Delivery of a **‘Local Councils -Transforming Northern Ireland’** summit (October 2020)
- Delivery of **Charter, Charter Plus and Charter Renewal** programmes for all 11 councils, as a nationally recognised learning provider.



NILGA ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2020-21

Theme One: Effective Regional Representation

Strong and effective local government needs individuals, councils and councillors working together to ensure that the sector can deliver for citizens. In 2020 – 2023 this case will be made regionally by NILGA, as is the case in all neighbouring jurisdictions, because strong and effective local government costs less and often provides better value than central government provision; is responsive to the needs of citizens; and is good at promoting participative democracy, with inclusive, sustainable results. NILGA will ensure that Northern Ireland local government's voice and needs are heard and understood. It will ensure that councils' key policies and resource requirements are supported within Stormont, with the NIO, in Westminster, island-wide, nationally and internationally.

Corporate Plan Priorities	What action will we take in 2020-21?	Anticipated Outcomes
Action 1: Consolidate and promote the position of NILGA as a 'go-to' organisation for the sector, for our member councils, for external organisations and governments who seek views from NI local government.	Represent the views of the NI local government sector at Select Committees, Assembly Committees, UK Local Government Forum, national & regional representative bodies Devise policy campaigns on NILGA's priority issues Engage with external bodies on policy issues & provide evidence to inform policy development	Strong, consensus-driven & timely local government views are articulated The positive work of councils is communicated Interests of councils are promoted & defended
Action 2: Provide dynamic, ongoing support to the work of the Partnership Panel, the (interim) Central-Local Government Political Partnership Forum and other regional policy and representation bodies / meetings.	Ensure elected members can be effective on CLGPPF, Monitoring Committees, programme development committees, representative bodies Facilitate & convene the CLGPPF and ensure issues are brought to the table, including community investment, environmental sustainability, emergency planning, waste management, replacement of EU funding, preventative health, audit & performance. Host & Manage the NI Strategic Migration Partnership (through Home Office contract) and deliver an agreed work programme Deliver the agreed work plan of the Policy & Learning Networks (<i>see Annex 1</i>)	Matters of common policy and budgetary concern are considered by MLAs and councillors to ensure local democratic scrutiny MLAs receive clear local government policy & delivery messages to protect and properly resource councils Transfers of powers and services are fully & adequately resourced

	Participate on relevant boards & working groups to represent the local government sector, including MHCLG EU Exit Delivery Board, LGA Brexit Task Force, Carnegie Embedding Wellbeing, Sustainable NI, DTNI, Consumer Council Responsible Lending Forum, NI Horticultural Forum, RHS UK Bloom Forum, NI Business & Human Rights Forum, S2020 Sports Strategy Steering Group, Heritage Forum, NI VCS Joint Forum, NIHE Rural Strategy Forum, DOJ Policing Joint Forum, Climate NI	
Action 3: Provide support for members and officers to engage in lobbying, and in policy and strategy formulation internationally and at UK and NI levels.	<p>Ensure members are informed to represent the views of local government on relevant bodies by providing evidence, research, briefings & advice, including on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform, devolution & improvement • Place-shaping & infrastructure • Economy & international affairs • Health, social & environmental wellbeing • Brexit implications & replacement of EU funding • Asylum & migration matters <p>Seek out opportunities to engage & lobby appropriate external bodies, groups and individuals</p> <p>Continue to promote learning from EER network and seek opportunities for NILGA to influence national and international policy</p>	<p>Members and officers have the evidence-base to influence change and ensure councils are protected & sustainable</p> <p>Councils will have co-designed and availed of relevant investment opportunities</p>
Action 4: Actively support and develop council, party and councillor engagement with NILGA to identify areas of benefit and achieve positive participation in strategic work, at all levels.	<p>Collaborate with members & officers on policy development, representation, communication</p> <p>Engage with relevant external bodies to broaden our policy influence</p> <p>Participate on relevant groups, including SOLACE NI, NAC, APSE, LGCS Health & Wellbeing and Equality & Diversity working groups, NARE, LGTG Elected Member Development Steering Group, Local Government Performance Improvement Working Group</p>	<p>Members and officers understand the benefits of collaboration through NILGA</p> <p>Councils will be working collaboratively with each other and with government on regional policy & initiatives</p>

<p>Action 5: Promote the recognition and revise the 2016 – 2021+ Programme for Local Government as a companion document to the NI Executive’s 2016-2020 Programme for Government (PfG), to inform policy and strategy on local government and to feed into a post-2021 PfG.</p>	<p>Alongside a council led consultation, contemporise the Programme for Local Government</p> <p>Develop work on the new burdens’ doctrine – ensure local government is protected into the future</p>	<p>Local government is strengthened, resourced & future-proofed</p>
<p>Action 6: Assist government and opposition to develop and improve approaches to policy development; and promote and protect the furtherance of local government views within the unfolding policy landscape.</p>	<p>Participate in relevant policy development groups and events to highlight the views of local government on policy issues</p> <p>Provide research & evidence which shapes the future of local government on <i>i.a.:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Programme for Government • Devolution Framework • Amendments to Local Government Act • Councillor Code of Conduct • Rates Reform • Entrepreneurial Strategy • Environment Strategy • Energy Strategy • Regeneration • Stronger Community Planning legislation • Community Safety Strategy • Policing Plan • Shared Prosperity Fund / Peace Plus Programme • Rural Development Strategy • Brexit • Regulation of gambling 	<p>Views of local government are taken account of in policy development</p> <p>Better public services are co-designed</p>

Theme Two: Effective Regional Communication & Co-ordination

Effective communication within the sector and the promotion of local government activity to stakeholders is vital. NILGA will play its part in communicating and delivering strong, effective, local government. NILGA in 2020 – 2023 will further build relationships within the sector; developing strong partnerships with government and with stakeholders, sharing best practice; communicating what local government needs and what it is doing well.

Corporate Plan Priorities	What action will we take in 2020-21?	Anticipated Outcomes
Action 7: Further build relationships with key personnel in key council roles, and further develop the value of participants from officer groups to NILGA's work.	Ensure officers are engaged in policy & learning networks and relevant regional groups	Policy responses reflect professional experts' views
Action 8: Actively develop new and existing protocols, as part of working for and with NILGA, agreeing roles and responsibilities of key partners to ensure effective working models are established and maintained.	Update constitution & investment framework, AGM protocols, financial / recruitment and other policies as required Negotiate National Pay Agreement that is fair & affordable for 12,000 staff Negotiate / benchmark Chief Executive & Chief Officer pay awards and Provide advice on Green Book terms and conditions to HR Teams.	NILGA adheres to good governance, audit & procurement standards
Action 9: Bring LGA and related expertise into NI from local government in other places, to inform and to enable NI local government to improve.	Work with LGA, COSLA & WLGA to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share best practice on economic & investment issues • Promote & enshrine civility in public life • Understand opportunities for shared services • Asylum & immigration issues (including integration) • Promote regional programme provision to other jurisdictions. 	National lobby on key issues is maximised & best practice is shared Councils & Elected members avail of opportunities to connect with and learn from other countries
Action 10: Consolidate relationships to empower local government with political parties, SOLACE, NAC, other LGAs, government	Attend political party conferences, SOLACE & NAC meetings Proactively engage with government departments, the NI Assembly and sectoral organisations	Stakeholders key to the successful delivery of local government priorities are connected and engaged with members & officers

departments, the NI Assembly, private and VCSE sectors.		Local government is seen as an essential part of contemporary government
Action 11: Promote local government through events such as the NILGA Flagship Annual Conference, Recognition Awards, Ulster in Bloom and actively promote councils' own engagement events.	Deliver Local Government Conference & Exhibition 2020 Promote & deliver Local Government Awards Promote & coordinate Ulster in Bloom competition Sponsor relevant awards for local government Social Enterprise NI Awards - Local Council of the Year - LGANI - Excellence in Environmental Sustainability by a Local Authority - NILGA & SNI - LGANI - Best Local Authority Elected Member Development Initiative - NILGA Attend events to raise profile of the local government sector, including Balmoral Show and relevant conferences & seminars	Excellence in local government is championed Profile & reputation of the local government sector is raised
Action 12: Further develop effective two-way communication between NILGA and its partners through ongoing review of NILGA's Communication and Engagement Strategy	Produce communications which are relevant to member councils, officers & elected members. Develop communications which clearly demonstrate the success and benefits of NILGA's work	Communications champion, protect, sustain and grow support for the sector Councils, members and officers are fully informed on the work of NILGA Importance of local government is communicated to stakeholders & NILGA is a valued local government association

Action 13: Actively monitor all partnership arrangements to identify growth opportunities of relevance to council and eliminate duplication.	Regularly engage with Strategic Partners to communicate and refine priorities including APSE, CES, CLES, DTNI, Enterprise NI, FSB, SIB, Social Enterprise NI, Stratagem & Sustainable NI Maintain existing alliances & establish new relationships with relevant organisations	Strategic Partners are aware of the work & role of councils and amplify NILGA's key messages with their stakeholders / members
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Theme Three: Effective Development of the NI Local Government Sector		
Effective local government requires consensus-driven, evidence-based policy, a body of confident, knowledgeable, articulate members and officers, responsible for policy formulation and the communication of key messages. NILGA in 2020 – 2023 will play a vital role in ensuring members and councils more widely have access to high-quality information, have opportunities to formulate policy on the basis of this information, and are provided with the necessary development and training opportunities to enhance the reputation of and confidence in the sector, across government, media and the public.		
Corporate Plan Priorities	What action will we take in 2020-21?	Anticipated Outcomes
Action 14: Establish, develop and support regional policy development, through member networks, key spokespeople and the NILGA Executive Committee, and target appropriate interventions to engage with national and international partners, responsive to unfolding events.	Deliver work plan of 5 Policy & Learning Networks (<i>See Annex 1</i>) to practically support the delivery of the NILGA Corporate plan and business plans Identify, appoint & develop capacity of spokespeople on relevant policy issues Ensure NILGA Executive & Policy & Learning networks are informed	Development of a confident & effective local government sector Regionally effective policy & learning networks Councillors are knowledgeable, resilient, confident & competent
Action 15: Establish new / maintain relevant existing regional partnerships and policy relationships with MLAs, Assembly Committees (when sitting), NI Executive and NIO	Engage with stakeholders through appropriate partnerships & groups Provide induction information and ongoing advice to councillors	Councillors are aware of the role & support offered by NILGA

Ministers, Departments, councils, local government officer groups, with both new and experienced councillors, and with experienced and new officers, especially in transformed roles for local councils.		
Action 16: Provide regionally developed, prioritised, consensus-driven policy positions on a range of existing and new policy areas to proactively inform government and in response to government consultation.	Develop or commission research & policy papers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution, new burdens & local government reform • Local Shared Services • Community Wealth & Preventative Health • Commissioning & Performance Management • Future EU funding 	The views of local government are considered in & reflected in new policy development
Action 17: Proactively develop local government understanding of and policy positions in relation to new / critical areas of work including planning, housing, circular economy, migration, international relations and emerging devolution and growth deals.	Deliver themed learning events through the Policy & Learning networks (see Annex 1) Deliver joint event with OFCOM on Digital Connectivity / 5G Produce a guide on Modern Slavery for local government Work with TEO & Home Office to develop understanding of migration & asylum issues	Issues prioritised by NILGA are fed into policy development The impact of new arrivals on councils' workplans is understood Investment opportunities are maximised
Action 18: Support and communicate the work of regional policy meetings such as the Partnership Panel/Central-Local Government Forum, NILGA's Executive and networks.	Convene & facilitate regional NILGA meetings, ensure timely communication to councils / members & follow up of outcomes	Councils & members are aware of NILGA's work

<p>Action 19: Member development – promote and further develop Charter (the member development national standard), the regional elected member development programme, and seminars, workshops, guides and training materials, to include Code of Conduct revisions and legislation affecting the roles of councillors and councils.</p>	<p>Delivery of accredited learning provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NILGA (ILM Endorsed Award) Local Planning and Leadership Programme 2019/20 • NILGA Leadership programme 2020. <p>Delivery of workshops and masterclasses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct • Environmental assessment • Scrutiny and challenge • Valuing Data and Evidence in Community Planning • Performance Improvement • Civil Contingencies • Rural Needs • GDPR <p>Lead on the achievement of Charter Level 1 for Mid and East Antrim Council and Charter Plus for Ards and North Down Council</p> <p>Collaboration with the Local Government Training Group as well as the National Association of Regional Employers which NILGA will Chair during the 2019/20 period.</p> <p>Co-ordination of the all council Regional Elected Member Development Network and attendance at individual council elected member development steering groups</p> <p>Work with LGA, COSLA & WLGA on civility in public life and develop a signposting service for councillors on stress and resilience</p>	<p>Elected members have the capacity to make robust and defensible decisions for their area</p> <p>Councils safeguard their reputation as responsible decision makers</p>
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<p>Action 20: To inform member councils of NILGA, consult upon and deliver an Annual Business Plan in each year, reporting on results against targets, maintaining efficiency and effectiveness.</p>	<p>Develop new Constitution & Investment Framework</p> <p>Support work of Audit, Risk & Sustainability network to monitor organisational performance & risk</p> <p>Ensure performance standards are in place for all staff through Performance Review & Development process</p> <p>Produce Annual Business Plan report in September 2020</p> <p>Consult on Annual Business Plan for 2021-20 by December 2020</p>	<p>NILGA business plan is co-designed with members & stakeholders</p>
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ANNEX 1

Priorities for NILGA's Policy & Learning Networks

Reform, Devolution and Improvement Network

- Commission a report on Devolution following a council led consultation
- Work on the New Burdens Doctrine
- Contemporise the Programme for Local Government
- Look into requirements for a bespoke system for NI regarding resources and funding
- Rates System and the ability for councils to make changes to them
- In order to develop an evidence base – carry out a SWOT Analysis on Reform
- Commission a report on possible areas of improvement

Health, Environmental & Social Wellbeing Network

- Supporting Council Climate Action
- Network Event: Caring Councils: Addressing Poverty Locally – at the 'cliff edge'
- Overview of progress on Community Planning
- Network Event: Circular Economy (jointly with Economy & International Affairs Network)
- Consideration of the council role in Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
- Council parks and leisure services driving improvement in health, well-being and biodiversity

Economy & International Affairs Network

- Respond to consultations on post-Brexit funding (Shared Prosperity / Peace Plus / Rural Development funding)
- Lobbying to improve Digital Connectivity – 5G, Project Stratum
- Revitalising our city and town centres (Urban regeneration theme – including working with DfC on public realms)
- Exploring opportunities to improve International Relations / International Trade
- Lobbying for an Entrepreneurial Strategy

Place Shaping & Infrastructure Network

- Housing supply and location
- Responding to the Energy Strategy Call for Evidence
- Review of planning legislation and policy including setting of planning fees, approach to developer contributions, SPPS
- 'Getting it right' – monitoring performance and addressing knowledge and practice gaps
- Potential for further devolution: transfer of regeneration, consideration of public realm and roads (in liaison with RDIN)
- Addressing the infrastructure deficit - Water and sewerage update
- Digital and broadband (with Economy & International Affairs network)
- Climate adaptation infrastructure and flood risk (With HSEWB network)

Elected Member Development Network

- Review and Implement LGA Charter Framework as a licensed provider
- Chairing NARE for 2020-21
- Deliver programme of training for elected members
- Local Government Training Group review
- Ongoing coordination of Charter & Charter Plus



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Mid Ulster District Council

Mid Ulster District Council's subscription for the above Investment & Work Plan in 2020/21 is £50,259 (excluding VAT)

Mid Ulster along with Newry, Mourne & Down, Ards & North Down, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon and Derry & Strabane is a Band B Council, which is a Council with a population between 145,000 – 300,000. An invoice will be sent to your Council on 1st April 2020 for payment by 30th June 2020.

In 2020/21 costs for the National Employers Side of the NJC and related services (c. £4,150 per council) is billed separately, as part of the council's invoice for joint services provided by or through NILGA / LGA.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association









Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

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#teamlocgovni

Strong Councils

*Driving Growth, Protecting Resources,
Championed by the Northern Ireland Local
Government Association.*

NILGA, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, is the representative, lobbying, policy, negotiating, development & communication body for all our councils.
It is owned and constituted by the 11 local authorities.

	The VOICE of local government, communicating the positive work of councils & defending their interests.							
£x20	Return on investment est. = yielding £1.3m p.a. benefits per council Success: lobbied for allocation of c. £4.25m / council for RPA, (£47 million) Success: Lobbying to retain Rates Support Grant, worth £80m since 2015 Success: Collective savings through collective sourcing of training & advice Need: Lobbying for replacement of EU funding, worth £3.5bn to NI.							
	Negotiating National Pay Agreement that is fair & affordable for 12,000 staff Negotiating / benchmarking Chief Executive & Chief Officer pay awards and advice on Green Book terms and conditions to HR Teams.							
	Regional Programme of Elected Member Development Best practice through 6 all council Policy & Learning Networks Top class events and workshops at no cost or heavily subsidised.							
	Representation on relevant national & international local government bodies (EU Committee of the Regions, CLGF, LGA, NARE) and EU Monitoring Committees – including direct lobbying of Ministers & Treasury Collaboration with counterparts in Scotland, England, Wales & Ireland – best practice advice & linkage benefits for all 11 councils.							
	Research & policy advice on issues that matter: <i>Reform, Devolution, Improvement, Governance, Place shaping, Infrastructure, Economy, Environment, City & Growth Deals, EU & UK funding, Community Planning, Migration, Code of Conduct, Council income and New Burdens Doctrine.</i>							
	Charter for Elected Member Development Promotion & coordination of Ulster in Bloom.							
	<div>ON OUR 2020 RADAR</div> <table><tr><td>Code of Conduct</td><td>Improvement & Transformation</td></tr><tr><td>Review of Local Government Reform</td><td>EU funding replacement</td></tr><tr><td>New leadership in local government</td><td>New investment for councils</td></tr></table>		Code of Conduct	Improvement & Transformation	Review of Local Government Reform	EU funding replacement	New leadership in local government	New investment for councils
Code of Conduct	Improvement & Transformation							
Review of Local Government Reform	EU funding replacement							
New leadership in local government	New investment for councils							
	Any questions? Just ask, YOUR local government association is here to help YOU							

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Disclaimer: The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) endeavours to ensure that the information contained within our Website, Policies and other communications is up to date and correct. We do not, however, make any representation that the information will be accurate, current, complete, uninterrupted or error free or that any information or other material accessible from or related to NILGA is free of viruses or other harmful components. NILGA accepts no responsibility for any erroneous information placed by or on behalf of any user or any loss by any person or user resulting from such information

Strong Councils, Great Local Government

TOP 10, Ten Minute NILGA Benefits Guide



1. WHO WE ARE

NILGA, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, **is the representative, lobbying, policy guidance, negotiating, development and communication body of our 11 councils.** It is owned and constituted by all 11 local authorities. It provides a substantial work plan annually and a Corporate Plan for an electoral term, both driven by councils, their appointed councillors and supportive senior officers on all matters of importance to the sector. NILGA also does specific work as sought by individual and clusters of councils. Your council's investment in NILGA yielded a calculated **20-fold return** of c. **£1.3 million p.a., since 2015**, excluding Rates Support Grant benefits gained by 7 member councils (point 7 over).

2. INVESTMENT - RETURNS FOR COUNCILS

NILGA's investment from councils enables essential, collective work which has even since 2015 yielded huge financial, policy, legislative, training and investment gains for your council and your 10 council neighbours. The work to ensure the NI Assembly gave funding of **£47 million to councils for RPA after stating nothing would be available, resulted from a strong, sector wide, NILGA led, evidence and lobbying, worth approximately £4.25 million per council since 2015 taken simply as an equal benefit.**

3. ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

NILGA's Regional Programme of Elected Member Development co-ordinates accessible, relevant, member and council led training based on sourcing training on a whole sector basis – using our collective purchasing power to save your councils & your ratepayers significant money. The Charter for Elected Member Development has been / will be gained by all 11 councils this electoral term, with NILGA having been licensed to deliver this saving, on average, £16,000 per council on private consultancy over the 3-year lifetime of Charter accreditation. That's another £176,000 off the rates bills we all pay and which provides planning, leadership and development training – often accredited by the community itself - which is of constituent and corporate value to elected member and officers alike.

4. WORKFORCE

NILGA negotiates a National Pay agreement on behalf of the 11 councils which agrees Pay, Terms and Conditions for our 12,000+ workforce. We ensure that fair and affordable pay and terms are implemented by having a direct, council representation at every Pay meeting until an agreement is struck. National Level Pay and Conditions covering England, Wales and N. Ireland avoids regional, sub regional and local inconsistencies which usually lead to more difficult, time consuming and money sapping outcomes. Since 2015, the benefits financially to our 11 councils based on national agreement, compared to local and regional outcomes in Scotland and parts of England, amount to circa **£7,000,000**. Equally importantly, NILGA gives advice on demand on matters to do with staff grading, service continuity, Green Book policies, and other technical matters so as to ensure your council and the other 10 have a **CONSISTENT** approach to such important yet sensitive Human Resource matters. Over 200 such queries were sought from NILGA in 2018/19 and all were resolved to employee and employer satisfaction. NILGA, on demand, also develops and sources policy guidance on Organisational Design, technical training, Chief Executive and Chief Officer Pay, salary benchmarking and appraisal technique. All this work is provided, on average, at a cost of £4,150 per council p.a., – a vast saving compared to each local authority procuring private sector advice.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

NILGA is a strong, constant communicator on **POSITIVE WORK** of councils. Our Social Media, Web Based News, online and print Press and TV articles, sourced from all 11 councils as well as our own, unapologetic defence of councils and councillors where unfounded criticism is faced, is an antidote in a negative media world. We also unequivocally communicate sector wide campaigns, including ensuring as many people as possible in N.I. understand what councils do, why local democracy is so important, including the highly acclaimed Campaign to Vote in May 2019. The Voice of Local Government is authoritative and loudly heard through NILGA.

6. REPRESENTATION

NILGA ensures local councils, both officers and councillors, are represented on regional (all NI), national and international bodies which we can learn from and get investment from. For example, a National group of employers and trainers will convene in Belfast and Ballymena during 2020 as NILGA, at no cost to councils, has secured that we – NI – chair their work and get the benefits of their expertise for free this, next and in future years. We are working with Council Chiefs and elected members on getting the best deal, through the UK Government Forum (NILGA one of only 4 bodies represented to meet national ministers and Treasury), in terms of post Brexit funding. An estimated £3.5 BILLION is set to come to N. Ireland. Councils, through NILGA, are pressing for much of that as possible to come to EACH council, to supplement City and Growth Deals, to invest in local skills, jobs, community development and infrastructure. Our target? Government past delivery suggests £175 million of that £3.5 billion goes directly to NI councils. We want and will lobby for at least three times that amount, another £350 million, which will NOT be something ratepayers have to find, as NILGA asserts that is double taxation.

7. RESOURCES

Most (7) councils receive around **£16 million p.a.** from central government through the Rates Support Grant. Whilst arguing that this process is outdated and needs a whole review, NILGA has lobbied, in partnership with many councils, for the PROTECTION of this investment, which raises more money on enterprise and jobs than it costs. The Grant is annually threatened with removal or reduction. NILGA's lobbying with councils has retained over **£80 Million** between 2015 & 2019 for hard pressed councils striking prudent rates each February. We will continue this pressure to ensure 7 eligible councils have investment for growth.

8. POLICY

NILGA's policy work is seen as an invaluable tool for government itself, but only in the sense that we collate and lobby for things your council and the other 10 councils want. A strong Environment Strategy; a deliverable and well-resourced NI Water Strategy; Waste Management policy and strategy that resources, develops and supports the excellent work councils are doing on this expensive but vital service, and which should soon deliver £2m per council per year on an ongoing basis; contemporary and effective place-shaping and infrastructure policy. Funding for councils to lead on delivery of Community Plans deserved by the community, on key issues such as prevention of ill- health. Ensuring the latest round of European including Cross Border and Peace monies are CO-DESIGNED, SCRUTINISED and bring as much funding to councils as possible, funding anticipated to be in the region of €630 Million.

9. DRIVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We are your Local Government Association and in the near future will be working daily with members and officers on new and important work beyond that mentioned here. What further resources and powers and functions, if any, does your Council need / want? How will a revised Code of Conduct be applied to benefit councillors and reduce costs for councils? How can councils corporate income and economic development work be enhanced with a New Business Rates Model. Placing legislation to strengthen the NI Local Government Act and protecting councils against transfers of functions which end up costing your council and its ratepayers more money than you get! NILGA's New Burdens work will indemnify your and the other 10 councils from being "short changed".

10. HERE TO HELP

Any questions? Just ask, we are here to help. No frills, no fuss, just exemplary work from a dedicated team of 10 officers, drawing on the skill and power of 450 councils across the UK and Ireland, bringing it directly to each council here, working WITH – and FOR - for you.



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Northern Ireland Water
Westland House
Old Westland Road
Belfast
BT14 6TE



anthony.tohill@midulstercouncil.org

Date: 19th December 2019

Dear Mr Tohill

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of NI Water to highlight Northern Ireland's current wastewater infrastructure crisis.

NI Water has been warning for some time that inadequate funding would eventually impact on delivery of service. Please see Appendix attached in relation to your Council area.

The level of funding made available to NI Water for the 2015 to 2021 period has already resulted in over 100 areas across Northern Ireland where Wastewater Treatment Works are at, or rapidly approaching, full capacity and where NI Water is unlikely to be able to accept additional sewer connections.

The economic consequences are clear with new housing, businesses, schools, hospitals and tourism all seriously affected. If current levels of funding are maintained we expect a further 33 Economically Constrained Areas (ECAs) to be added to this list by 2027 and 50% of Northern Ireland's sewer system will be full.

We are now facing a tipping point and collectively need to urgently make decisions about the structure and funding of NI Water if we are to continue to provide the water and sewerage services which are expected in a healthy economy.

NI Water's current governance model has been described as 'sub-optimal' both by economic commentators and the Utility Regulator. It is simply no longer fit for purpose. Currently NI Water receives a subsidy in lieu of domestic charging and has access to borrowings; however, it has been constrained in its ability to invest in capital infrastructure. We believe this accounting constraint needs further examination.

NI Water has identified a £2.5bn investment programme for Northern Ireland's water and wastewater infrastructure over the 2021 to 2027 period (PC21), this includes £1bn which is needed urgently to address significant wastewater capacity issues in Belfast and allow new wastewater connections there from 2021 onwards. This investment is critical to maintaining the supply of safe, quality water and to address a large number of wastewater capacity issues across our cities and towns. We need agreement and support from all sectors in Northern Ireland to secure funding to achieve this level of investment.



Northern Ireland's wastewater infrastructure is at serious risk and nearly every main urban area is impacted including; Belfast, Coleraine, Limavady, Newry, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Omagh, Newtownards, Bangor, Cookstown, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne, Antrim, Ballyclare, Armagh, Portadown, Lurgan, Metropolitan Lisburn & Castlereagh, Derry/Londonderry and Strabane.

This is a situation which can be avoided. NI Water knows Northern Ireland's economic growth ambitions, and we have both the costed plans and the skills to deliver resilient water and wastewater infrastructure. We have proven we are an exemplar of how a GO-CO, a Government Company, can provide private sector levels of performance and efficiency.

Never before has Northern Ireland faced a situation where a lack of fundamental infrastructure will restrict the opportunities for economic growth and tourism as well as putting our natural environment and the health of our population at risk.

In the context of a possible return to a functioning NI Executive/Assembly (or even without it) I would ask you to actively support the immediate proper funding of Northern Ireland's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Should you have any questions or concerns please email press.office@niwater.com. We would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

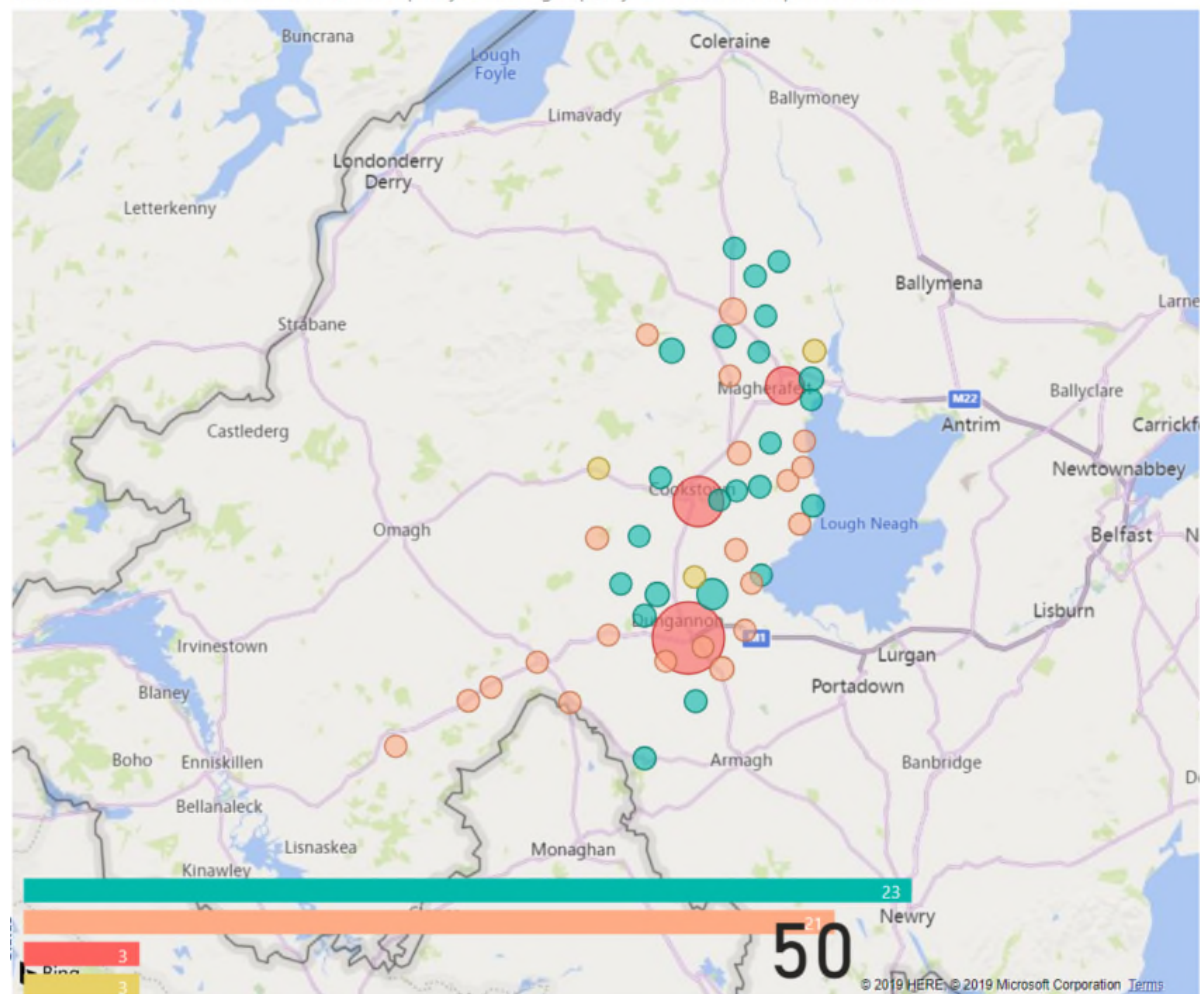


Mark Ellesmere
For and on behalf of NI Water Board



APPENDIX

Status ● Economic Constraint Zone ● Has Capacity ● Nearing Capacity ● Serious Development Restriction



**From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride**



BY EMAIL: Eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org

Cllr Martin Kearney
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 0563
Email: Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 14 January 2020

Dear Cllr Kearney

I wish to express my thanks to you and Council colleagues for your proactivity in meeting to discuss working together to deliver Council elements of the Protect Life 2 Strategy.

We discussed a range of ways in which the Council could contribute to the Strategy. This included: representation on Protect Life Implementation Groups; focusing on resilience and mental health through local community action plans; Councillors and Council staff training in suicide prevention; awareness raising of support services and investment in suicide prevention initiatives.

Much of the general work the Council undertakes also contributes to suicide prevention in an indirect way such as ensuring access to sports facilities and leisure programmes; actions to alleviate poverty; actions to promote access to green space and physical activity and reducing social isolation.

There were a number of actions we agreed to consider going forward:

- Council to consider a presentation on planned suicide prevention work at next meeting of Protect Life 2 Steering Group (Wednesday 26 February at 10.30am, CAFRE Loughry College);
- Staff to made aware of and encouraged to undertake the Towards Zero Suicide online training through the e-learning platform <https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training/> and where appropriate further training to develop knowledge and skills for example Safetalk or Mental Health First Aid;
- PHA could engage Samaritans to deliver a media training session to Councillors;

- Explore Council Charter on Suicide Prevention;
- Work with PHA in developing a Directory of Services for Mid-Ulster that was not Trust area specific: and
- Work with PHA to consider options to assist Council representation at Protect Life Implementation Groups.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with and assisting the Council in progressing suicide prevention in the Mid-Ulster Council area.

Yours sincerely



DR MICHAEL McBRIDE
Chief Medical Officer

cc Fiona McClements: Fiona.mcclements@midulstercouncil.org
Fiona Teague: fiona.teague@hscni.net



Mary Peters Trust

marypeterstrust.org

Funding Northern Ireland's Future Sporting Champions

6th January 2020

Mr Anthony Tohill
Mid Ulster Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
County Tyrone
BT71 6DT

Dear Mr Tohill

Over the years you have assisted the Mary Peters Trust (we are a charity administered voluntarily by Directors) by providing encouragement and financial support. We invest our capital and the interest is distributed in the form of sporting awards to upcoming athletes.

In the year 2019 the Trust disbursed over £80k to 200 young people representing over 50 sports.

We are seeking your support to help maintain our capital base to ensure the level and value of awards continues to grow. We need the support of Local Authorities, commercial organisations and voluntary bodies in order to help achieve this target. A number of fundraising events are also being organised.

We ask you to forward this letter to the relevant Council Committee and respectfully request they join in our work of helping young people achieve excellence in sport, by making a contribution for the financial year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

Best wishes and many thanks for your continued support.

Lady Mary Peters CH DBE RNR
President