

Report on	Conferences, Seminars & Training
Date of Meeting	26 November 2020
Reporting Officer	Philip Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	Eileen Forde, Member Support Officer

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	Provide an update on seminars and conferences received. To seek approval for (i) elected member attendance and the payment of registration/ attendance fees and associated costs, as incurred and, (ii) council officer approvals.
2.0	Background
2.1	Costs associated will be set against 2020-21 member Conference, Seminar and Training allocations.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Approval for Consideration of Attendance by Elected Members</p> <p>There are occasions when it is beneficial to Members to attend training, conferences and seminars to better equip them in their role as elected representatives. Approval for attendance as detailed in Appendix A to this report is sought.</p>
3.2	<p>Officer Approvals</p> <p>There are occasions when it is beneficial to the council for Officers to attend conferences and seminars. There are currently no requests.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: Costs to be set against Members 2019/20 conference/seminar/training allocation. Any costs incurred above annual allocation to be incurred by Member</p>

	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Approval for attendance at the conferences, seminars and training by members and council officers as required.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A Members Conferences, Seminars & Training

Appendix A

Member Training

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests
NILGA	Thursday 3 rd December 2020, 10.30- 2.30pm on zoom	Via zoom	<i>Nil</i>	Cllrs S McGuigan, Mallaghan, McFlynn and Kearney

Conferences

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs	Attendee Requests
The Northern Ireland Protocol, the Internal Markets Bill and an Australia-style Brexit	Thursday, 3 rd December 2020 9.30 am – 1pm	On line	£99 (1 place alternatively more than 1 place £89 plus VAT)	

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



MEDIA PARTNER

agendaNi

OVERVIEW

The Northern Ireland Economic Conference, now in its 25th year, is Northern Ireland's premier economic analysis event and is unique in being the only forum that takes a high level look at the performance of, and prospects for the local economy. It is firmly established as the annual autumn summit for Northern Ireland's economic community, including policy makers and business leaders. This year's conference will take place at a time of unprecedented change and is a not-to-be-missed event for all the latest information and perspectives on the local economy.

Key issues to be examined by an expert panel of speakers include:

- Economic impact of **Covid-19** on Northern Ireland
- Economic **policy priorities** for Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland **medium term** economic outlook
- Options for devolving **fiscal powers**
- Importance of **skills** in the local economy
- Impact of **Brexit** on Northern Ireland economy
- Promoting **innovation and boosting** productivity

Conference format

agendaNi will be using an online platform that will allow speakers and delegates to follow the normal structure of a conference. This will include:

- Chair and speakers on screen during the session
- Speakers will be able to use PowerPoint slides
- A Q&A session with delegates being able to post questions, moderated by the chair
- A chat facility for delegates to make comments, moderated by agendaNi
- A twitter feed to be visible to all participants

- A 'handout' facility that will allow delegates to receive relevant documentation

Delegates will get a 'conference experience' that goes beyond the normal video conferencing meeting formats. Click undernoted link for further details.

<https://bmfbusinessservices.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/92B56E991B44F2F02540EF23F30FEDED/F011B5BF7E868EDC7C7E43DA369301C4>

Local Government Finance Masterclass for Councillors

Online — Zoom
Thursday 3rd December 2020
10.30-2.30pm

NILGA, in partnership with SOLACE, the Association of Local Government Finance Officers, CIPFA and the support of the LGTG, invites Elected Members to an online Masterclass on Local Government Finance. This session will improve councillors understanding, participation and confidence in:

- The Sustainability of Councils
- Mitigating Against the Worst Impacts of a Post Pandemic Recession
- Importance of Finance in Strategic Planning
- The Local Government Finance System and Legislative requirements
- Financial Scrutiny and Challenge
- Innovation and Transformation

Why Attend?

Local government exists to provide a range of services that improves the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of your area. Expenditure on these services is allocated using a complex financial system, which can be difficult to understand. Participation on this masterclass will de-mystify this complex system and help you to help local government target resources in the most impactful way, based on robust defensible decision making.

Hosted by NILGA with support from the LGTG (Local Government Training Group), this session is open to all Elected Members, officers and interested stakeholders. The session will be delivered online via zoom, details will be provided to all registered delegates. To register please email f.douglas@nilga.org.

Disclaimer

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The Future of the Irish Border: The Northern Ireland Protocol, the Internal Markets Bill and an Australia-style Brexit

Thursday, 3rd December 2020

Delegate Fees

Delegate	
1 Place	STANDARD RATE: £99
2+ Places	STANDARD RATE: £89 (per person)

Delegate Details

Delegate Name	Position	Email Address
1.		
2.		
3.		

* Please inform us in advance by email of any accessibility/dietary requirements.

Key Contact Details

Name: _____
Organisation: _____
Department: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

☐ Invoice details are the same as Key Contact Details

Invoice Details

Name: _____
Organisation: _____
Department: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

Purchase Order No. (if applicable): _____

Method of Payment

☐ I will pay £ _____ + VAT by GPC / Credit Card (Please contact me to obtain card details)

☐ Please invoice my organisation for £ _____ + VAT (at 20%)

Confirmation

Invoices are dispatched immediately upon receipt of the registration form, and payment must be made immediately upon receipt of the invoice. If, for any reason, you are unable to attend the event, a replacement delegate may be sent. On the occasion where no replacement delegate can attend on your behalf, Public Policy Exchange will provide a paid credit for use against a future event which will be valid for 12 months from the event original date. Public Policy Exchange reserves the right to change the date and / or venue of the event.

For full 'Terms and Conditions' & 'Privacy Policy' please visit; www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/terms-and-conditions

☐ I accept the terms and conditions and privacy notice

☐ I would like to receive information about similar events

Signed: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE EMAIL BACK TO sales@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

The Future of the Irish Border:

The Northern Ireland Protocol, the Internal Markets Bill and an Australia-style Brexit

Date of Event: Thursday, December 3rd 2020

Time of Event: 9:30 AM — 1:00 PM

Place of Event: Webinar

REGISTER YOUR PLACE

Overview

On October 15th, the UK passed its own deadline for the Brexit talks, a moment the Prime Minister had previously stated would be the point that either a deal is reached or when the UK would leave the negotiations. While last year's Political Declaration signed by the UK and the EU seemed to suggest the continuation of a 'soft' border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the growing prospect of a 'no-deal Brexit' makes this uncertain.

When the UK left the EU at the end of 2019, an answer to the Irish border question was starting to become apparent. Under the Northern Ireland protocol, goods will not need to be checked along the Irish border when the new UK-EU relationship begins in 2021. It confirms that Northern Ireland is part of the UK's customs territory, but obliges it to be governed as if it remains part of the EU's single market for goods. This prevents barriers to cross border trade on the island of Ireland and protects the cooperation between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland secured by Strand II of the Good Friday Agreement. In doing so it shifts the barriers to trade to the Irish Sea, despite Northern Ireland being part of the UK. Furthermore, under the current deal, the UK, as a whole, is not held in a customs union with the EU. It is free to diverge in terms of tariffs and regulatory standards from the EU, and to conclude trade deals with other countries. The subsequent risk of some goods which do not comply with the EU's requirements entering the EU's single market through Northern Ireland means that a hard border will be needed somewhere, with that somewhere – according to the protocol – being in the Irish Sea.

However, the introduction of the Internal Market Bill (IMB) has – by the government's own admission – moved back from this agreement. While the protocol put fetters on access to the Northern Ireland market from Great Britain (namely those goods having to meet EU standards), the IMB seeks to legislate for full unfettered access for Northern Ireland goods to the UK market. The IMB and the protocol are an acknowledgement that Northern Ireland is deeply integrated into both the UK and the EU (specifically Irish) markets. Supply chains cross both the Irish sea and Irish land borders – in a way quite unique in the UK.

While the IMB seeks to square this circle, it could potentially create a precedent that could hinder the progress of the Brexit negotiations. By stating that the UK intends to legislate in a way that is "inconsistent and incompatible with international law and other domestic law" the UK government's hard line could create further complications for Northern Ireland. Other obstacles also remain which reduce the likelihood of a deal being agreed, which will have an impact on UK-Irish trade and potentially the state of the Irish border. With no Article 50-like extension procedure available, there is one absolute deadline – the UK exits transition on 31 December – unless both sides decide they need just a bit more time and EU lawyers approve. Progress will also have to be made on four key issues: the level playing field, governance, dispute settlements, and fisheries. The first issue strikes at the heart of the UK government's agenda, state aid and the government's ability to support key industries, and the UK's independence to conclude free trade deals with other countries. While the UK is hoping to secure a Canada-style Brexit deal, disagreements over these issues risk the prevention of 'zero tariffs, zero quotas' access for the UK's exports to the EU.

As the UK approaches the end of the transition period, and question grow over the state of the Irish border, this symposium provides an invaluable opportunity for policymakers, local authorities, business leaders and other key stakeholders to gain a better understanding on the current Brexit negotiations and how to better prepare for the different scenarios that could potentially unfold.

Program

- Discuss the latest policy updates and developments on Brexit and its implications on the UK and Ireland
- Analyse the potential impact of a 'no deal' or an 'Australia-style' Brexit on the Irish border and the subsequent ramifications on security and the economy in Northern Ireland
- Discuss the Northern Ireland protocol and its effect on trade between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK
- Examine how border checks can be carried out in an efficient manner and ways in which a "level playing field" can be assured
- Scrutinise the Internal Markets Bill and its wider consequences for UK-EU cooperation, post-Brexit
- Explore technical and other innovative solutions for dealing with the overlap of two custom territories
- Share best practice for dealing with the unpredictability surrounding the future status of the Irish border and Northern Ireland's relationship with the Customs Union

Who Should Attend?

- Central Government Officials
- Civil Servants
- Local Authorities
- Tax and Customs Authorities
- Educational Institutions
- Academics
- Local Democracy Groups
- EU Funding Bodies
- Civil Society Groups
- Political Party Members
- Regional Development Agencies
- International Trade Bodies
- Tourist Board Members
- Researchers
- Social Scientists
- Social Workers
- Employment Officials
- Benefits authorities
- Urban Regeneration bodies
- Charities
- Private sector businesses
- Infrastructure experts
- Economists
- Welfare authorities