

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>NILGA - Work Plan and Investment for 2018/19</p>	<p>Officer presenting:</p> <p>Business Support and Change Manager</p> <p>Author:</p> <p>Business Support and Change Manager</p>
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a copy of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)'s Work Plan for 2018/19, together with the request to approve the £48,914 subscription fee.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Members approve NILGA's workplan and payment of its subscription fee.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) is the representative body for the 11 councils in NI. It promotes, develops and champions local government by developing regional (all Council) approaches to key issues affecting the sector, including elected member development, collective lobbying, policy formulation, best practice events and campaigns to improve democracy and public services.
- 2.2 NILGA members are drawn from each of the 11 councils. The Association supports and represents NI Local Government's interests on regional bodies such as the Partnership Panel with the NI Assembly, within the Local Government Group of Associations in the UK (with over 550 councils as members) and in Europe - NILGA won the European Entrepreneurial Region Award for NI in 2015 as conferred by the EU's Committee of the Regions.
- 2.3 The Association is supported by political parties and independent members in councils, and works in partnership with other key regional players such as SOLACE (Chief Executive's Body) and the NI Housing Council. NILGA's work is facilitated by a small but dynamic officer team, supporting elected members in their actions, providing advice and direction to take decisions on issues as important as Waste, Planning, local economies and member learning.

- 2.4 By ensuring a collective framework for and with councils, NILGA communicates the importance of local government as a growing, sustainable and contemporary part of government in NI, ensuring that the sector is a partner of equal, equipped with an informed, strong, unified voice when dealing with central government, the EU and other legislative bodies.
- 2.5 Following the Independent Review of NILGA in September 2015 and its formal reconstitution the annual summary and workplan was considered and approved at the Governance and Strategic Planning Committees held in November 2014 (Shadow), March 2015, November 2015 and March 2016.
- 2.6 NILGA have forwarded correspondence with their suggested work plan and investment subscription for 2018/2019 for Council's approval. The documentation is attached at appendix one and two for Members information and consideration.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 NILGA assert that their work plan was designed in accordance with the requirements of council members and senior officers from across the 11 councils, together with input from NILGAs newly appointed policy partners. They state that it "draws on service requests and feedback from Derry City and Strabane District Council members and officers, including direct support for Elected Member Development Group and participating in the development of the Council's Growth and Investment strategy and ensuing partnership."
- 3.2 NILGA state that they will continue to develop its very strong relationship at a corporate level with Derry City and Strabane District Council, including applying for the Charter plus award and taking advantage of new investment opportunities for the local economy.
- 3.3 NILGA also state that they will seek to use and promote venues across the council area for awareness events.
- 3.4 NILGA outline their high level work plan as follows:
 - Legislation, powers, investment and transfers of functions
 - Regional Communication, News Bulletins, a new media and web platform, member and officer liaison
 - Statutory representation and co-ordination

- Regional and sub regional awareness and network events, Flagship Annual Conference
- Elected Member Development including Charter/Charter Plus
- National and Regional policy, lobbying, guidance, publications
- International and European policy, investment, representation
- Strategic, regional working groups
- NI Councils' future sustainability – research and development
- Corporate planning and performance management.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR and Other Implications

- 4.1 Adoption of this workplan will incur a £48,914 investment in NILGA. This compares to an investment of £48,500 in 2017/18.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Subject to Members' views, it is recommended that the NILGA work plan and investment for 2018/19 is approved.