

Mr J Kelpie  
Chief Executive  
Derry City & Strabane District Council  
Council Offices  
98 Strand Road  
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11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear John

Strengthening and protecting the councils in Northern Ireland in 2019/20 will dominate a challenging year for Derry City & Strabane District and wider local government - I therefore have pleasure in enclosing NILGA's Work Plan for this period, together with the associated investment subscription.

2019/20 is likely to be the toughest year since the formation of the new councils, notwithstanding elections themselves, with many challenges beyond local authority control. It is clear however that Derry City & Strabane District and NILGA will continue the substantial progress made regarding locally led investment, new approaches to council partnerships, member and officer development, and protecting local government from resource pressures stemming from the transfer of responsibilities and burdens from central government and NI Executive departments.

NILGA's investment, co-ordination, representative and delivery work with and for the 11-member councils will respond and meet those challenges head on.

The Work Plan for the collective councils / SOLACE regionally and specifically for your elected members and corporate team in DCSDC meets the requirements of a sector which is not only delivering high quality services at affordable costs, but which is successfully adapting to the wider political and fiscal environment we are operating in. NILGA will bring the very best practice and learning, together with opportunities to showcase Derry City & Strabane District directly into the council and its localities.

This Plan supports a substantial forward prioritisation programme to ensure councils are sustainable and resilient now and beyond the next elections.

The Work Plan includes strong, evidence-based representation to those at home and abroad who can politically, legislatively and fiscally improve the sustainability of local government in Derry City & Strabane District and throughout Northern Ireland. It prioritises elected member 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, Community, Growth plans and key support strategies.

The Work Plan was designed in accordance with the requirements of council members and senior officers from across the 11 councils, together with input from NILGA's newly appointed policy partners who include the **Strategic Investment Board, Enterprise NI and the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE)**. It draws on service requests and feedback from Derry City & Strabane members and officers, including direct support for your Elected Member development group and participating in the development of the council's Growth & Investment strategy and ensuing partnership.

Your elected members participate fully in the direction and work of NILGA, including Mayor, Councillor John Boyle, councillors Kieran McGuire, Jim McKeever, Patricia Logue, Maoliosa McHugh, Dan Kelly,

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Martin Reilly, Gus Hastings, Paul Fleming, together with Aldermen Mary Hamilton, Drew Thompson, Thomas Kerrigan and Allan Bresland to name but a few. This cross party, combined leadership is supported by excellent working relationships with you and your senior officer team, including Sharon Maxwell, Paula Donnelly, Ellen Kavanagh, Alfie Dallas, Richard Osterhaus and Stephen Gillespie.

NILGA will continue to develop its very strong relationship at corporate level with Derry City & Strabane District Council, including maintaining the Charter Plus award and taking advantage of new investment opportunities for the local economy.

We will continue to use the council's venues such as the Millennium Forum, Strabane Civic Buildings and the Guildhall for member and officer awareness events on matters as important, yet diverse, as working with Irish Regional Assemblies, UK Local Government forum, City & growth Deals, Brexit, the Code of Conduct, devolution, new economic investment opportunities, Commonwealth & EU matters and the emerging Programme for Government.

NILGA has and will continue to explicitly demonstrate high levels of performance and value for money, despite the modest size of the Association's resources and team, we draw on a much wider team across these islands, due to our credibility and network which has demonstrably impacted on Derry City & Strabane District Council this year.

I am pleased to confirm that the investment for the coming year (as per five of the past six years) reflects a 0% increase on 2018/19, despite national pay, living wage and inflation factors.

It is a pleasure working with your members and officers. Derry City & Strabane District's input into NILGA is testimony to your local, regional, national and trans- national ambitions.

Councils, having approved the Work Plan, either yearly or on an electoral term basis, will receive their annual invoice in April for payment before the end of June.

Yours sincerely



Derek McCallan  
Chief Executive

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