

Title of Report:- Central/Local Government Political Partnership Forum	Officer Presenting: Author: Strategic Business Manager
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1. Purpose of the report / key recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the recent meeting and terms of reference of the Central/Local Government Political Partnership Forum.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Members note the content of this report.

2. Background.

- 2.1 In the absence of the Assembly and a statutory, Ministerial Partnership Panel for Northern Ireland, the "*Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum*" provides two tier, devolved political scrutiny, joint awareness on critical issues affecting the sector and more widely, together with a governance link to councils and departments, at regional (all NI) level.
- 2.2 The Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum brings together political representatives of councils (*Local Government Partnership Panel and NILGA Office Bearers*) with MLAs appointed by their parties as principal policy liaison members.
- 2.3 The Forum aims to work collegiately with government departments to realise policy and communication benefits through joint democratic scrutiny, which ultimately delivers more effective public services for our citizens until the Legislative Assembly is reconstituted / returned.

3. Key issues.

- 3.1 The third meeting of the Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum took place on the 18th January 2019.
- 3.2 The meeting was attended by Councillor Maoliosa McHugh who was nominated to the Partnership Panel at the Councils Annual Meeting.
- 3.3 The outcomes note of this meeting, as provided by NILGA are attached at Appendix 1. The draft minutes are attached for Members reference at Appendix 2 and a structural diagram outlining its relationship to key stakeholders at appendix three.

3.4 During the meeting members discussed the terms of reference and it was agreed that the final draft would be distributed to Councils. This is attached at appendix four.

4. Financial and other implications

4.1 There are no direct financial and/or other implications arising from this report.

5. Key recommendations.

5.1 It is recommended that Members note the content of this report and the ongoing work of the Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum.