

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>NILGA Update</p>	<p>Officer presenting:</p> <p>Strategic Business Manager</p> <p>Author:</p> <p>Strategic Business Manager</p>
---	---

1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with copies of:

- the draft minutes of the meeting of the Central/Local Government Political Partnership Forum held on Friday the 27th September 2019 in Castlereagh
- A pre consultation notice on three planned NILGA consultations on Council-led reform, the £3.5bn shared prosperity fund and shared services.

1.2 It is recommended that members note the contents of this report and its appendices.

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 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 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 fifth meeting of the Central-Local Government Political Partnership Forum took place on 27th September 2019.

3.2 The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1 and summarised below for member's information:

- Issues raised for discussion and debate:
 - Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Services Budget Pressures
 - The Impact of Infrastructure Deficit on Social Housing Demand and Housing Stress

- Outcomes from Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum, 28.06.2019
 - Code of Conduct
 - DoF Business Rates Consultation

- Keynote Presentation 1– Sara Venning, Chief Executive, NI Water.
Action: The Business Rates Consultation (<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dof-internal-communications/department-of-finance-business-rates-consultation/>) will be discussed at the NILGA Executive meeting. NILGA will collaborate with the 11 Councils to agree a formal response.

- Keynote Presentation 2 – Michael Graham, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, NIFRS
Action: NIFRS will engage with Councils to update on changes to the Interim Service Delivery Model and proposed plans moving forward.

- Issues to be addressed at future meetings of the Forum
 - Enhanced Health Care
 - Transportation & Rural Isolation

- Maximising impact of broadband for small businesses & communities
 - NILGA to raise regional concerns about the current Project Saturn and plan for future initiatives with Noel Lavery, Permanent Secretary, DfE.

- 3.3 Furthermore, the NILGA President and Chief Executive has issued correspondence to the Mayor and Chief Executive - attached at appendix 2, dated 23rd Jan 2020. The correspondence is a pre-consultation notice that there shall be three consultations issued to Council on: council led reform, the shared prosperity fund and shared services. NILGA outlines that they will be seeking Council's comment on these issues in the near future and they will correspond with Council again in due course.
- 3.4 The correspondence requests that it is tabled at the appropriate committee so it is therefore duly attached at Appendix 2. Further information will be brought forward to a subsequent committee

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR and Other Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Subject to Members' views, it is recommended that Members note the
- The draft minutes of the meeting of the Central/Local Government Political Partnership Forum held on Friday the 27th September 2019 in Castlereaigh
 - Pre consultation notice on three planned NILGA consultations on Council-led reform, the £3.5bn shared prosperity fund and shared services.