

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>7 January 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>N/A</b>
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

## 2.0 The following are listed:

### 2.1 Housing Council December Bulletin (copy attached)

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 5th December 2019, Bulletin enclosed.

### 2.2 RBL, S Barnett, Assistant Director Operations – Care Services, Breaks and Recovery (email correspondence below)

#### **Consultation Acknowledgement, RBL Bennet House - proposed closure**

*Thank you for contacting us with Council's response to the proposed closure of the Legion's Break Centre, Bennet House, in Portrush. The views of our staff, external stakeholders and the Armed Forces community are important to us as we do not work in isolation and we recognise that serving personnel, veterans and their families deserve the very best support from us.*

*As you will no doubt be aware, the Legion has for nearly a century supported the Armed Forces community through the provision of comradeship, practical help and campaigning on their behalf. As we look ahead to our centenary in 2021, we are exploring how best we can continue to meet the needs of a changing Armed Forces community and remain both relevant and fit for purpose to support our people for the next one hundred years.*

*As I'm sure you can appreciate, the Legion must uphold its charitable responsibilities to provide high quality services that support the Armed Forces community, and use the generous donations given to us by the public in the most impactful way. As part of our recent review of our services, we were therefore mindful about investing in activities that make the greatest contribution to improving the lives of those we serve.*

*The needs of the Armed Forces community are becoming increasingly complex. We are experiencing more demand for support, individuals often present with multiple needs such as both financial support and housing, and the cost of supporting each case has increased by an average of over 45% since 2016. In order to adapt to the changing landscape, we are proposing to invest in our personalised services and case work, bolster our collaborative working with local organisations, and strengthen the way*

*in which we provide care services to older veterans, who constitute a large proportion of the Armed Forces community.*

*To enable these changes, we will need to refocus our funding and make some difficult decisions, but always with the best interests of our community in mind. That is why we are discussing proposals to close our Handy Van Services in England and Wales, and our Break Centres across the UK, with potentially affected staff. I would like to stress that no final decisions have been made and that our consultation with staff is expected to last until early 2020, when a final decision will be announced.*

*I hope the above is helpful, and thank you once again for sharing your thoughts with us.*

**3.0 It is recommended** that Council note the correspondence.



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## **NOVEMBER HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN**

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 10.30 am in the Corrs Corner Hotel, Newtownabbey.

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

### **Members Present**

Ald Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Ald Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Ald John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Ald Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Cllr Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough
Cllr Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

### **Members Apologies**

Ald Phillip Brett	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Cllr Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Ald Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City

The Housing Council's considered various routine items at the Meeting, followed by detailed discussions on the undernoted matters:-

- Members received a presentation by Karly Greene, Head of Research from the Housing Executive on Social Sector Size Criteria/Bedroom Tax
- The Housing Executive's Chief Executive gave a verbal update on **Housing Executive's Business from the November Board Meeting**, which included the following items:-
  1. Monkscoole House, Rathcoole
  2. Economic Appraisal for Orlit Dwellings at 3 McKinley Bungalows, Omagh
  3. Chronic Homelessness Action Plan 2019-22
  4. Hope Street Development Proposal Update
  5. Economic Appraisal for Lands at Rathenraw Estate, Antrim
  6. Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) 2019/20 Delivery Update and Approval to the Draft 3 Year SDHP 2020/21- 2022/23 and Strategic Business Case
  7. Update on the Rental Income Maximisation Strategy 2016-21
  8. Supporting People Programme – Progress Status Update

- Members then received an update from David Polley Department for Communities, on the **Departments' Housing Top Issues** to date, which included:-
  1. Social Newbuild starts
  2. Co-ownership
  3. Programme for Social Reform
  4. Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
  5. Reclassification of Northern Irelands Social Housing Providers
  6. Supporting People Delivery Strategy
  7. Homelessness Strategy
  8. St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena
  9. Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
  10. Increasing Housing Supply
  11. Affordable Warmth Scheme
  12. NIHE Rent Scheme
  13. Welfare Reform Mitigation payments
  14. ERDF Investment Growth and Jobs Programme 2014-2020

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 am in the City Hall, Belfast.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

### **Contacts**

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#### **Secretary**

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