

Title of Report:	Correspondence Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	14th September 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
Lead Officer	Director of Environmental Services

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

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

1.0 Purpose of Report

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

2.0 The following correspondence has been received:

2.1 sustainableni (dated 30th July 2021)

Summary

Correspondence dated 30th July 2021 has been received from sustainableni inviting nominations of two elected representatives for Northern Ireland's first ever All Party Group on Climate Action.

The Group's purpose is to provide a forum for discussion between politicians, NGOs, business leaders and academics, to drive progress on climate action and sustainable development in Northern Ireland.

Membership of the Group is cross party and includes representatives from the Northern Ireland Assembly as well as elected members from local councils. The Group usually meets monthly on the last Friday of the month, with an Annual General Meeting once a year.

Copy correspondence is attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 Department for Infrastructure (dated September 2021)

Summary

Correspondence dated September 2021 has been received from Department for Infrastructure in response to Council's letters of 27 July to DAERA and DfI passing on Council's motion on a possible Coastal Observatory (copy correspondence is attached as Appendix 2.)

A combined response on behalf of both DAERA and DfI has been issued. Copy correspondence is attached as Appendix 3.

3.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee consider the correspondence.

Democratic Services
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Civic Headquarters
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine BT52 1EY

30 July 2021

Dear Sinead

Nominations for All Party Group on Climate Action

We previously wrote to Councils requesting two elected representatives for Northern Ireland's first ever [All Party Group on Climate Action](#).

The Group's purpose is to provide a forum for discussion between politicians, NGOs, business leaders and academics, to drive progress on climate action and sustainable development in Northern Ireland.

Membership of the Group is cross party and includes representatives from the Northern Ireland Assembly as well as elected members from local councils. The Group usually meets monthly on the last Friday of the month, with an Annual General Meeting once a year.

Due to the pandemic most of the meetings have been held virtually, although we are exploring a hybrid approach whereby meetings will occasionally be held in Stormont.

Since its establishment, the Group has met on 10 occasions:

- 24 January 2020 (AGM) – Declaration of Climate Emergency (QUB)
- 26 June 2020 – Green Growth (DAERA)
- 19 August 2020 – Youth Voice (NI Youth Forum)
- 28 October 2020 – Climate Change Bill (Private Members Bill)
- 11 December 2020 – Low Carbon Retrofit (NI Housing Executive)
- 29 January 2021 (AGM) – Nature Based Solutions (RSPB)
- 26 March 2021 – Community Energy (Joint Committee on Community Energy)
- 30 April 2021 – Sustainable Buildings (Department of Finance)
- 28 May 2021 – Sustainable Land Use (Minister for Infrastructure)
- 25 June 2021 – Circular Economy / Waste (Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs)

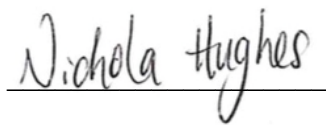
There are some ongoing support costs in relation to providing a secretariat for Group, which are currently covered through council and public authority subscriptions to Sustainable Northern Ireland. There is no fee to participate, however a contribution to the running of the charity would be welcome.

We would encourage Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to get involved. Councillors are invited to relay key messages and information to internal Committees and Working Groups in order to move this agenda forward and foster national – local dialogue on the need to take ambitious and coordinated action on climate change, before it's too late.

I have enclosed a copy of the Terms of Reference for the Group, for more information.

The next meeting will take place on **Friday 24 September 2021, 10:00 – 12:00** and will look at the issue of Divestment, with Adam McGibbon of Market Forces and David Murphy, Chief Executive of NILGOSC scheduled as the speakers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nichola Hughes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Nichola Hughes

Director

26th July 2021

Department for Infrastructure
Corporate Policy Unit
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB

Coastal Erosion

I write in relation a motion which was passed by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council on 1st September 2020. The motion stated -

‘That this council recognizes the present and future dangers that coastal erosion will bring to our coast line. That this council also recognizes the impact that coastal erosion will have on our economy and the quality of life for our residents, and further recognizes the ongoing loss of land to the agricultural community due to coastal erosion. That this council now calls on the Department of Infrastructure and DAERA to look at setting up a Coastal Observatory in line with and under the same conditions as other jurisdictions.’

In this regard Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council requests the Department of Infrastructure and/or Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to consider setting up a Coastal Observatory in line with and under the same conditions as other jurisdictions. This Council would also like to ascertain if legislation is intended to be introduced to manage coastal erosion in Northern Ireland.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Aidan McPeake
Director of Environmental Services
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Riada House, 14 Charles Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6DZ
Tel: 028 2766 0214

/hmca

26th July 2021

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Gasworks Business Park
Malone Lower
BELFAST
BT7 2JA

Dear Sir/Madam,

Coastal Erosion

I write in relation a motion which was passed by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council on 1st September 2020. The motion stated -

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Department for
Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Resources, Governance and EU

Aidan McPeake
Director of Environmental Services
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Room 1-26
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 6215

Your reference:
Our reference:
Date: September 2021

Dear Aidan,

Thank you for your letters of 27 July to DAERA and DfI passing on your Council's motion on a possible Coastal Observatory. I have spoken with colleagues in DAERA and we agreed that I would provide a combined response on behalf of both Departments.

As you will be aware, the Coastal Forum is the mechanism through which work is being progressed to devise solutions to the problems facing our coastline and DfI, DAERA, Councils and the National Trust have worked collaboratively to develop a Coastal Forum Work Programme. The Council representative on the Coastal Forum Working Group (CFWG) may have advised you that at the meeting on 27 April 2021, DAERA officials gave a presentation which explored some initial options for a possible Coastal Observatory in NI. Three main options were highlighted and CFWG members were asked to provide their views on the options. During the CFWG meeting, DfI / DAERA officials did highlight that this was an initial scoping exercise as this was a matter for future policy consideration and there would be significant funding implications.

One of the outcomes of the Coastal Forum meeting on 24 June 2021 was to seek approval from the DAERA and DfI Ministers to hold a policy workshop this autumn. Subject to Ministerial views, it is expected that potential for a Coastal Observatory will be one of many topics discussed at the workshop, including how organisations would fund same. Another possible topic at the workshop is likely to be future legislation needs. All members of the Coastal Forum and CFWG will be invited to attend the policy workshop this autumn; at this point, we are planning on the workshop being held virtually.

I welcome the continued engagement on coastal management issues through the Coastal Forum and CFWG and look forward to CC& GBC attendance at the virtual policy workshop when your colleagues will be able to contribute to the challenging policy, funding and legislative issues, including discussions on a possible Coastal Observatory.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Stranaghan