

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>3 May 2022</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Decision</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-2025)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council operates as one effective and efficient corporate unit with a common purpose and culture
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
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 Dorinnia Carville, Deputy Chief Executive Newry, Mourne and Down District Council** (correspondence dated 15 March 2022) (copy attached)

Re: Notice of Motion – Opposed to Planned Changes to Red Diesel

Correspondence received regarding seeking support by writing to the British Treasury raising concerns on the detrimental economic impact these proposed changes to Red Diesel will have.

*“That Newry Mourne and Down District Council oppose the planned changes to Red Diesel usage being brought in by HMRC in April. The proposed changes to red diesel usage in any vehicle other than what are described as vehicles being used for agricultural purposes only. Council notes with concern that these changes will have severe implications for many sectors of our economy locally throughout our district and not solely within agriculture. Council writes to the British Treasury opposing the planned changes and seeking to immediately pause these damaging proposals and to look at new ways as to how government can practically support businesses take the necessary actions to move away from fossil fuels and to put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions as these proposals will only serve to increasing input costs without themselves reducing emission.*

*Council writes to all Councils in the North asking them to write to the British Treasury asking them to raise concerns that this will have a detrimental economic impact across all Council Areas”*

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council ask you give this serious consideration and look forward to your response.

**2.2 Dorinnia Carville, Deputy Chief Executive Newry, Mourne and Down District Council** (correspondence dated 15 March 2022) (copy attached)

Re: Emergency Notice of Motion – Increased Energy Costs

Correspondence received regarding seeking support by writing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding Increased Energy Costs, demanding release of much necessary funding and support to enable that all households who have been affected by these massive price increases receive much

needed support and help where it is needed most especially in the times that we are now in and beyond.

*“Electricity and fuel in recent days and times all of which will have a major detrimental impact on all our residents in our district and beyond, Newry Mourne and Down District Council call upon and demand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer release the much necessary funding and support to enable that all households who have been affected by these massive price increases receive much needed support and help where it is needed most especially in the times that we are now in and beyond. If this motion is adopted, we encourage the other ten councils to do the same for their residents”.*

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council ask you give this serious consideration and look forward to your response.

### **2.3 Responses from Northern Ireland Water – Deputation to Council on 5 April 2022 (copy attached)**

Correspondence has been received from NI Water in relation to their Deputation to Council and responses to Elected Member queries at the meeting held 5 April 2022.

### **2.4 Alison McCullough, Chief Executive, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (correspondence dated 12 April 2022) (copy attached)**

Re: Motion – Recruiting staff within the hospitality and tourism sectors

Correspondence received regarding seeking support by lobbying on behalf of Tourism and Hospitality providers regarding the recruiting of staff within the hospitality and tourism sectors.

*“This Council calls on the UK Government and the NI Executive to urgently review the current deficit experienced by employers in recruiting staff within the hospitality & tourism sectors. This has become a major crisis not only locally but throughout the entirety of Northern Ireland. Further, that this Council writes to Kevin Foster MP, Minister for Immigration in the UK Government, and associated Stormont Ministers, to ask that immediate measures are instigated to alleviate the recruitment difficulties in this vital sector to our economy. It is recommended that this Motion is circulated to all other Councils in Northern Ireland seeking their support in lobbying on behalf of the Tourism and Hospitality providers.”*

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council trust that you will support this Motion.

### **2.5 Alison McCullough, Chief Executive, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (correspondence dated 12 April 2022) (copy attached)**

Re: Motion – Independent Review of all deaths with potential issues around domestic violence

Correspondence received regarding seeking the support of the above Notice of Motion.

*“This Council calls on the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to instigate an independent, strategic review of the handling of all deaths in which there were established or potential issues around domestic violence and in particular those which were not investigated or treated as murder, or death was deemed to be from suicide or accidental injury.*

*This review should determine all aspects of each case including decisions taken by senior officers and explanations for same, and if all procedures and protocols were fully adhered to and all avenues of investigation exhausted.*

*In addition this council calls on the Chief Constable to establish a mechanism whereby officers of any rank can raise concerns as to the circumstances and investigations of such deaths and indicate if they are being overruled and/or ordered by superiors not to pursue these cases.*

*Further, this council calls on all Health and Social Care Trusts to either expand “Whistleblower” Policies or create a separate, similar channel for all treating staff to voice concerns on the presentation of victims, with support for staff in alerting the Police Service of Northern Ireland and ensuring said concerns are fully taken on board and appropriately documented.*

*This motion should also be shared with the Minister for Justice, the Police Ombudsman, the Policing Board, the Commissioner for Human Rights and all district councils with a view to adopting the requests/recommendations contained therein.”*

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council trust that you will support this Motion.

**2.6 Alison McCullough, Chief Executive, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council** (correspondence dated 12 April 2022) (copy attached)

Correspondence received regarding seeking representations to the Commissioner for Older People to commend him for progressing judicial review proceedings against the Department of Health regarding the Department’s changes to continuing healthcare.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council trust that you will give this issue due consideration.

**2.7 Alison McCullough, Chief Executive, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council**

(correspondence dated 21 April 2022) (copy attached)

Re: Public Holiday – St Brigid’s Day

Correspondence received regarding seeking support for the first Monday in February from 2023 to be designated a public holiday in Northern Ireland.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council trust that you will give consideration to this request and looks forward to receiving your response.

**3.0 Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that Council consider the correspondence.

Marie Ward  
Chief Executive

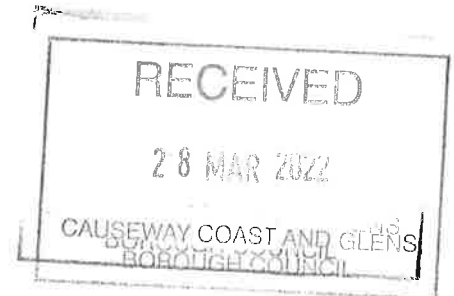


Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne  
and Down  
District Council

Our ref: C/054/2022

15 March 2022

Mr David Jackson CEO  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
Council HQ  
Cloonanvin  
66 Portstewart Road  
Coleraine  
BT52 1EY



Dear Mr Jackson

**Re: Notice of Motion – Opposed to Planned Changes to Red Diesel**

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 7 March 2022, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

**"That Newry Mourne and Down District Council oppose the planned changes to Red Diesel usage being brought in by HMRC in April.**

**The proposed changes to red diesel usage in any vehicle other than what are described as vehicles being used for agricultural purposes only.**

**Council notes with concern that these changes will have severe implications for many sectors of our economy locally throughout our district and not solely within agriculture. Council writes to the British Treasury opposing the planned changes and seeking to immediately pause these damaging proposals and to look at new ways as to how government can practically support businesses take the necessary actions to move away from fossil fuels and to put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions as these proposals will only serve to increasing input costs without themselves reducing emission.**

**Council writes to all Councils in the North asking them to write to the British Treasury asking them to raise concerns that this will have a detrimental economic impact across all Council Areas".**

Members spoke at length about how proposed changes would have damaging effects on all sectors who avail of red diesel and the detrimental effect on businesses in particular the agriculture, construction, quarrying and manufacturing sectors that were already struggling with increased costs of materials and soaring energy prices. Recent fuel price hikes as well as reductions and in some cases withdrawal of EU funding had farmers under pressure and charities would also lose out as fundraising tractor runs would no longer be feasible.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council are opposed to the planned changes and have asked the British Chancellor to immediately pause this move and instead look at how to practically support businesses to take the necessary action to move away from fossil fuels and put in place measures and policies that would have a meaningful impact in reducing emissions.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council ask that you join them and write to the British Treasury raising concerns on the detrimental economic impact these proposed changes will have.

Oifig an Iúir  
Newry Office  
O'Hagan House  
Monaghan Row  
Newry BT35 8DJ

Oifig Dhún Pádraig  
Downpatrick Office  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road  
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

0330 137 4000 (Council)  
council@nmandd.org  
www.newrymournedown.org

Ag freastal ar an Dúin  
agus Ard Mhacha Theas  
Serving Down  
and South Armagh



I would ask that you give this matter serious consideration and I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorinnia Carville".

**Dorinnia Carville**  
**Deputy Chief Executive**

Marie Ward  
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin  
Newry, Mourne  
and Down  
District Council

Our ref: C/057/2022

15 March 2022

Mr David Jackson CEO  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
Council HQ  
Cloonanvin  
66 Portstewart Road  
Coleraine  
BT52 1EY

Dear Mr Jackson

**Re: Emergency Notice of Motion – Increased Energy Costs**

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 7 March 2022, the following emergency Notice of Motion was agreed:

**“In light of the massive hikes of prices in relation to energy related costs such as oil, gas, electricity and fuel in recent days and times all of which will have a major detrimental impact on all our residents in our district and beyond, Newry Mourne and Down District Council call upon and demand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer release the much necessary funding and support to enable that all households who have been affected by these massive price increases receive much needed support and help where it is needed most especially in the times that we are now in and beyond. If this motion is adopted, we encourage the other ten councils to do the same for their residents”.**

This emergency motion was unanimously agreed and Newry Mourne and Down District Council ask that you join them and write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

I would ask that you give this matter serious consideration and I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

**Dorinnia Carville**  
**Deputy Chief Executive**



**CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS COUNCIL MEETING QUERIES – MEETING 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p><b>1.</b> Cllr Quigley – Can you advise if there are any proposals under the current PC21 funding to address issues in the Christie Park area of Coleraine?</p>	<p>NI Water propose to undertake the Strand Road Project during the PC21 period. This will include sewer upgrades at Waterside and Christie Park. Completion of this project is subject to final agreement with NIEA our environmental Regulator, statutory approvals, land acquisition and the availability of funding.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Cllr Quigley – In 2020 NI Water closed Ballinrees Reservoir to the public, I believe this may have been for safety reasons due to sight lines. People are now parking on the road and verge which is also a danger. Is there any possibility the NI Water could re-visit this decision.</p>	<p>Following representation from DfI Roads who indicated that due to inadequate sight lines egress from the car park posed a Health &amp; Safety risk, NI Water took the decision to close the car park. This position was backed up by the PSNI.</p> <p>As the situation regarding sight lines has not changed, and a Health &amp; Safety risk still exists NI Water is unable to reinstate access to Ballinrees Dam.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Cllr McLaughlin – I have called NI Water 11 times since 2020 regarding a water leak in Cloughmills. Each time I have been told that someone will get back to me but this has not happened. It was marked with yellow paint before Christmas but no repair was undertaken, and road has now be resurfaced. This is adjacent to a church with elderly residents coming and going and is a danger.</p>	<p>Dr Gary Curran followed up with Operational staff, who have investigated this issue on several occasions. Site investigations including CCTV surveys and trial holes have been undertaken, and we do not believe that there is an issue with any of NI Water assets at this location. It is possible that it may be an issue with an old culvert or road drainage.</p> <p>However, as the issue remains unresolved and has been raised as a Health &amp; Safety issue, we will undertake further investigation and convey our findings directly to the Cllr on completion.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Alderman Hillis – Do NI Water have any surplus land within the Council area that could be sold off for public amenity purposes?</p>	<p>NI Water do not currently have any surplus land that they wish to dispose of within the Council area. When any land is to be disposed of it must be advertised for sale. NI Water is keen to hold onto any land where power is available as this may in future be repurposed for energy generation.</p>



Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 12 April 2022

Email: [democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com)

Mr David Jackson  
Chief Executive  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
66 Portstewart Road  
COLERAINE  
BT52 1EY

Dear Mr Jackson,

**Re: Motion – Recruiting staff within the hospitality and tourism sectors**

At the recent Council meeting held on 5 April 2022, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council adopted the following Motion:

***“This Council calls on the UK Government and the NI Executive to urgently review the current deficit experienced by employers in recruiting staff within the hospitality & tourism sectors. This has become a major crisis not only locally but throughout the entirety of Northern Ireland.***

***Further, that this Council writes to Kevin Foster MP, Minister for Immigration in the UK Government, and associated Stormont Ministers, to ask that immediate measures are instigated to alleviate the recruitment difficulties in this vital sector to our economy.***

***It is recommended that this Motion is circulated to all other Councils in Northern Ireland seeking their support in lobbying on behalf of the Tourism and Hospitality providers.”***

The Council trusts that you will support this Motion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

**Alison McCullagh**  
Chief Executive



Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 12 April 2022

Email: [democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com)

Mr David Jackson  
Chief Executive  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
66 Portstewart Road  
COLERAINE  
BT52 1EY

Dear Mr Jackson,

**Re: Motion – Independent Review of all deaths with potential issues around domestic violence**

At the recent Council meeting held on 5 April 2022, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council adopted the following Motion:

***“This Council calls on the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to instigate an independent, strategic review of the handling of all deaths in which there were established or potential issues around domestic violence and in particular those which were not investigated or treated as murder, or death was deemed to be from suicide or accidental injury.***

***This review should determine all aspects of each case including decisions taken by senior officers and explanations for same, and if all procedures and protocols were fully adhered to and all avenues of investigation exhausted.***

***In addition this council calls on the Chief Constable to establish a mechanism whereby officers of any rank can raise concerns as to the circumstances and investigations of such deaths and indicate if they are being overruled and/or ordered by superiors not to pursue these cases.***

***Further, this council calls on all Health and Social Care Trusts to either expand “Whistleblower” Policies or create a separate, similar channel for all treating staff to voice concerns on the presentation of victims, with support for staff in alerting the Police Service of Northern Ireland and ensuring said concerns are fully taken on board and appropriately documented.***

***This motion should also be shared with the Minister for Justice, the Police Ombudsman, the Policing Board, the Commissioner for Human Rights and all district councils with a view to adopting the requests/recommendations contained therein.”***

The Council trusts that you will support this Motion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Alison McCullagh**  
**Chief Executive**

Alison McCullagh  
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 12 April 2022

Email: [democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com)

Mr David Jackson  
Chief Executive  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
66 Portstewart Road  
COLERAINE  
BT52 1EY

Dear Mr Jackson,

**Re: Continuing Healthcare Provision**

At the Council meeting held on 5 April, Members asked that I write to the Commissioner for Older People to commend him for progressing judicial review proceedings against the Department of Health regarding the Department's changes to continuing healthcare.

Members also requested that I write to all other Councils in Northern Ireland to encourage them to make similar representations to the Commissioner.

The Council trusts you will give this issue due consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

**Alison McCullagh**  
Chief Executive

Alison McCullagh  
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh  
District Council  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 21 April 2022

Email: [democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com)

Mr David Jackson  
Chief Executive  
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  
66 Portstewart Road  
COLERAINE  
BT52 1EY

Dear Mr Jackson,

**Re: Public Holiday – St Brigid’s Day**

At a recent Council meeting, Members asked that I write to the Prime Minister to request that from 2023, the first Monday in February be designated a public holiday in Northern Ireland. Such a designation would be in line with a recent decision by the Irish Government and would therefore result in a public holiday across the island of Ireland.

At the Policy and Resources meeting held on 13 April 2022, Members asked that I write to you and to all Councils in Northern Ireland, to ask for your support in our efforts to secure this additional Public Holiday and any further steps they will take to initiate the required process.

The Council trusts that you will give due consideration to this request and looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

**Alison McCullagh**  
Chief Executive