

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

17<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear David,

NILGA is currently working on a plan detailing the key activities our organisation needs to undertake in preparation for the 2023 – 2027 local government term and I will ensure the final document is shared with you when it is approved by the NILGA Executive in December 2022.

I know you will be undertaking the same planning in your Council and that the pre and post local government election period is a very busy time for you.

I thought it would be helpful to write early about a couple of items that have come up in our planning discussions with NILGA Members in the hope these can be factored into your plans now.

- **Early engagement with your Council after the local government election** – NILGA is very aware that our work is led by our 11 Member Councils as represented by those appointed by your Council to NILGA. However, in recent months there has been much discussion in NILGA about the significant number of Elected Members who have no direct involvement in NILGA and the possibility of a number of Elected Members coming into local government for the first time in May 2023. NILGA would therefore appreciate it, if time could be set aside at a very early meeting of your Full Council in the new term, for the political leadership of NILGA, supported by me as Chief Executive to engage with your Elected Members.

The engagement would focus on NILGA's purpose and strategic direction, as articulated in our new Corporate Plan 2023-2027. The new Corporate Plan will be developed in partnership with Councils in the coming months for endorsement by the new political leadership of NILGA post May 2023.

- **NILGA subscriptions** – As you know, we are very reliant on the subscriptions paid annually by your Council for membership of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and those subscriptions are put to use in our work on your behalf. NILGA is also a membership organisation only for the 11 NI Councils and the NILGA political membership is appointed for the same 4 year local government term as Councils. In recognition of this, many Councils budget and secure political agreement for the annual subscription for the 4 year local government term, rather than returning to the discussion annually.

It would be appreciated if this approach could be considered for all Councils, obviously subject to annual satisfactory performance by NILGA. This is of course without prejudice to

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clause 5 of the current NILGA constitution which states that any Council wishing to withdraw from NILGA, is required to give at least one full year's notice of its intention to do so, including consideration of associated liabilities. Additionally, NILGA Members (also being Council Elected Members) are very aware of the current financial pressures on Councils and always consider that when setting the subscription rate.

Your consideration of the above would be appreciated and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything further you need.

Kind Regards,



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**Alison Allen**  
**Chief Executive**