



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Corporate Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>23 April 2024</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>
<b>To be discussed In Committee</b>	<b>No</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</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	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

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

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

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

2.0 The following correspondence has been received:

**2.1 Anthony Carleton, Director Local Government & Housing Regulation, Department for Communities – dated 28 March 2024** (copy attached)  
(Council Remote/Hybris Meetings attached)

2.2 Extract

*Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2024.*

*I acknowledge the short notice given to councils and understand the potential impact that the temporary removal of provisions to allow councils to hold meetings by remote or hybrid means may have.*

*To be clear, from 7 March 2024, the legislation which provided councils with the power to hold remote/hybrid meetings, made under the Coronavirus Act 2020, ceased to have effect. It will require new legislation to reintroduce arrangements for hybrid/remote meetings.*

*Minister Lyons has indicated that emergency legislation made under the Coronavirus Act 2020 is not the right mechanism to provide councils with powers to hold remote or hybrid meetings. He is committed to giving councils the flexibility to hold remote/hybrid meetings and intends to bring forward regulations, within as short a timeframe as possible, using enabling powers in the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021.*

*Officials have been in contact with all council Chief Executives regarding the preparation of the new regulations and will continue to engage and update councils regularly on this matter.*

## **3.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that Corporate Policy and Resources Committee consider the correspondence.



**From: Anthony Carleton**  
Director Local Government  
& Housing Regulation Division

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BT2 7EG

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Our Ref: EM-CO1/24/223972

Date: 28 March 2024

Sinead Duggan  
Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Office  
Causeway Coast and Glens District Council  
66 Portstewart Road  
Coleraine  
BT52 1EY

Via email: [REDACTED]@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Dear Sinead,

## **COUNCIL REMOTE/HYBRID MEETINGS**

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2024.

I acknowledge the short notice given to councils and understand the potential impact that the temporary removal of provisions to allow councils to hold meetings by remote or hybrid means may have.

To be clear, from 7 March 2024, the legislation which provided councils with the power to hold remote/hybrid meetings, made under the Coronavirus Act 2020, ceased to have effect. It will require new legislation to reintroduce arrangements for hybrid/remote meetings.

Minister Lyons has indicated that emergency legislation made under the Coronavirus Act 2020 is not the right mechanism to provide councils with powers to hold remote or hybrid meetings. He is committed to giving councils the flexibility to hold remote/hybrid meetings and intends to bring forward regulations, within as short a timeframe as possible, using enabling powers in the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021.

Officials have been in contact with all council Chief Executives regarding the preparation of the new regulations and will continue to engage and update councils regularly on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Anthony Carleton**