

Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	4 June 2024
For Decision or For Information	FOR DECISION
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
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

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	YES/NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	YES/NO

Screening Requirements	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:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
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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 **Councillor Patricia Logue, Mayor, Derry City and Strabane District Council, 9 May 2024 (copy attached)**

2.2 **Extract**

At a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 24 April 2024, the following Motion was passed:

That this Council acknowledges the unacceptable waiting times for autism assessments in the North of Ireland, causing significant hardship and developmental delays.

Council recognises that early intervention is critical for developing key skills in children with autism, yet the backlog hinders timely support, impacting individual potential and straining educational and healthcare services.

Council resolve to formally write to the Minister of Education and the Minister for Health to urgently develop and present a comprehensive business case outlining specific, actionable strategies to address and resolve this backlog including a detailed analysis of its impacts, clear reduction targets, proposed measures for ongoing assessments, and the necessary financial and staffing resources.

This plan should involve and support families throughout the process.

Council demands immediate action and insists on a collaborative effort among the Minister for Health, Minister for Education, and Minister for Finance, together with key stakeholders to develop a detailed report on the business case and action plan, including a clear implementation timeline, within this mandate period to immediately address and resolve the existing backlog.

Council will seek collaboration from ALL NI councils to support this call pledging to facilitate and support the development of the business case and action plan.

2.3 I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter and would be grateful for a response at your earliest opportunity.

3.0 Grainia Long, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, dated 20th May 2024 (copy attached)

3.1 Extract

I am pleased to inform you that the Housing Executive's eighth annual Commissioning Prospectus, for the period 2024/25 to 2026/27, has now been published on the Housing Executive's website and can be accessed through the link [The Housing Executive - Commissioning prospectus \(nihe.gov.uk\)](https://www.nihe.gov.uk).

The Commissioning Prospectus helps to meet the Housing Executive's statutory obligations, under the Housing (NI) Order 1981, which places responsibility on it for the assessment of social housing need and is aligned to the Three-Year Corporate Strategy high level priority "We will work with our partners to increase social housing supply to help meet identified need and we will build our capacity to borrow, invest in our stock and add to new supply."

The Commissioning Prospectus forms an integral part of the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) and provides both a strategic overview and local assessment of housing need and demand, enabling Housing Associations and other stakeholders to make informed decisions about where to search for land and property to deliver new social and intermediate housing within assessed housing need and strategic targets.

As a Statutory Partner in Community Planning, the Housing Executive strongly values the existing collaborative working with local Councils and is grateful for your support and the priority given to affordable housing through community planning outcomes. We also greatly appreciate the practical support provided by Council Planning Departments, and in particular, for prioritising social housing to ensure delivery in year of SHDP starts.

The Housing Executive looks forward to its continued engagement with your Council on those areas identified in the Commissioning Prospectus as being in acute housing need and to seek your assistance in bringing forward surplus lands that could facilitate meeting housing need and on future land use zonings as part of the Housing Executive's statutory role as a consultee in the Local Development Plan process.

Further information on the Commissioning Prospectus or on any site-specific queries is available by emailing the relevant Head of Regional Place Shaping as follows:

- Fiona.McGrath@NIHE.GOV.UK - Head of Regional Place Shaping (Belfast)
- sinead.collins@nihe.gov.uk - Head of Regional Place Shaping (South)
- Louise.Clarke@NIHE.GOV.UK - Head of Regional Place Shaping (North)

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council consider the correspondence.



Mayor / Méara
Councillor / An Comhairleoir
Patricia Logue

Our Ref: TJ/C216/24

9 May 2024

Dear Chief Executive

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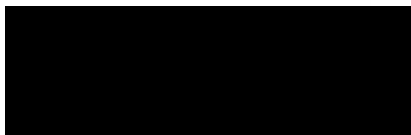
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and action plan, including a clear implementation timeline, within this mandate period to immediately address and resolve the existing backlog.

Council will seek collaboration from ALL NI councils to support this call pledging to facilitate and support the development of the business case and action plan.

I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter and would be grateful for a response at your earliest opportunity.

Yours Sincerely



**Councillor Patricia Logue
Mayor
Derry City and Strabane District Council**

Chief Executive Officer

20th May 2024

Dear CEO

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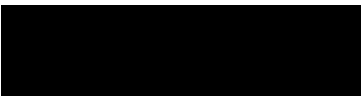
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Yours sincerely,



Grainia Long
Chief Executive