

Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	29 June 2021
For Decision or For Information	FOR DECISION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-2025)	
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	
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

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:
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 Northern Ireland Housing Council email correspondence dated 5th June 2021 (attached)

The Minutes of The 480th Northern Ireland Housing Council meeting held on 13 May 2021 and June Bulletin.

2.2 Department of Agriculture, Environmental and Rural Affairs (DAERA) correspondence dated 1st June 2021

A Press Release has been received from DAERA Minister, Edwin Poots MLA, announcing a delay to the introduction of pet travel checks at NI points of entry until at least 1 October 2021.

- <http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/minister-poots-confirms-delay-pet-travel-checks>

2.3 Alison McCullagh Chief Executive, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council correspondence dated 14th June 2021 (attached)

Re: Motion Implementation of our BDS support in relation to PSI/An Garda Síochána partnerships with Israeli security forces and companies with involvement in illegal Israeli settlements.

Correspondence has been received requesting that Council take the action requested in relation to the Motion as set out within the correspondence.

2.4 Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Councillor W McCaughey, correspondence dated 16th June (attached)

Correspondence has been received inviting Elected Members to attend the Annual Battle of the Somme Remembrance Parade and Service to be held at the Knockagh War Memorial on Sunday 27 June 2021.

3.0 It is recommended that Council consider the correspondence.



Minutes of the 480th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 13th May 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex

Present by Video Conferencing:

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

In Attendance:

Paul Price	Director of Social Housing Policy & Oversight (DfC)
David Polley	Director of Housing Strategy & Co-ordination (DfC)
John Goudy	Business Manager (NIHE)
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Paul Price and David Polley from the Department for Communities.</p> <p>She also welcomed the Presenter, John Goudy, Business Manager from the Housing Executive.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	

<p>3.0</p>	<p><u>To adopt the Minutes of the 479th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th April 2021</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Allan Bresland, seconded by Alderman Amanda Grehan and resolved, that the Minutes of the 479th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 15th April 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes</u></p> <p>Page 6/7 – Item 7 – Rural Housing Needs</p> <p>It was noted that arrangements were being made for a representative from the Rural Community Network to attend the June meeting to address Members of their specific work carried out on rural housing needs.</p> <p>Page 9 Item12 – Investment in Housing Executive Stock</p> <p>Arrangements have been arranged for the August Meeting on the Investment in Housing Executive stock.</p> <p>Meeting with the Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey</p> <p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Secretary to write to the Minister thanking her taking the time to meet with Members, which was a very positive and productive Meeting and to also convey their appreciation to her officials, Paul Price and David Polley, for their regular attendance at Housing Council Meetings. • the Secretary to write to both the Chair of the Housing Executive and Officials from the Department for Communities asking if they would consider both the Housing Executive and the Department for Communities to jointly address each of the eleven local Councils at their monthly Council/Committee Meeting, to update local elected representatives on the way forward of this major reform within the housing sector. <p>Town Centre Living (TCL) Heritage Lottery scheme</p> <p>Referring to Town Centre Living (TCL) Heritage Lottery scheme, Alderman Speers reiterated how the scheme was very beneficial, good value for money and regenerated town centre living and asked if the Housing Council Members who sit on the Board would raise the issue and urge the Housing Executive to continue to avail of such schemes.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Board Members</p>

<p>5.0</p>	<p>Forward Workplan</p> <p>The Report was noted.</p> <p>Agreed: the Secretary to send an invitation to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) to attend a future meeting, to discuss regular attendance at meetings and to explore how NIFHA and the Housing Council can develop a closer partnership on housing matters.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>6.0</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p>	<p><u>Housing Issues, Department for Communities</u></p> <p>Mr Paul Price and Mr David Polley highlighted certain changes under the specific headings on the Department for Communities (DfC) Housing Issues:-</p> <p>Social Newbuild starts</p> <p>A total of 2,403 social housing units were confirmed as actual starts during the 2020/2021 year, exceeding the target of 1,850 starts, of these starts 2,111 are new build. A budget of £162m had been secured for the Social Housing Development Programme in 2021/2022.</p> <p>Co-ownership</p> <p>It was noted that Co-ownership homes delivered in 2020/21 was 1473 (End March 2021). £145m to fund Co-ownership for the next 4 years 2020/2021 to 2023/2024 (£36.25m per year) had been approved.</p> <p>Programme for Social Reform</p> <p>It was reported that the Minister for Communities intends to bring proposals to the Executive by March 2022, which will include details as to how to address the investment challenge facing the Housing Executive. Work has commenced on assessing the scale of this investment challenge and identifying suitable options to address these issues.</p> <p>It was noted that a Programme Board has been established and the Department will continue to engage with Housing Council.</p>	

<p>6.4</p>	<p>Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy</p> <p>It was reported that the associated budget requiring the implementation of the agreed proposals, has not yet been secured to date to the Housing Executive.</p> <p>Mr Price undertook to keep Members apprised of situation.</p>	<p>P Price</p>
<p>6.5</p>	<p>Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers</p> <p>Following agreement by the Northern Ireland Executive, the consultation document on the future of the Housing Executive's House Sales Scheme will be launched in due course.</p>	
<p>6.6</p>	<p>Supporting People Delivery Strategy</p>	
<p>6.7</p>	<p>Homelessness Strategy</p> <p>It was reported that the Housing Executive had published their reset plan in November 2020. The plan assesses and evaluates the measures which have been put in place to address homelessness during the Covid-19 outbreak and makes recommendations as to how the Housing Executive and its partners can carefully transition from the current arrangements to a new operating environment post Covid-19.</p>	
<p>6.8</p>	<p>Regulation of the Private Rented Sector</p> <p>The Draft Private Rented Sector Bill has been circulated to stakeholders for comment, it includes measures to improve the safety, security and quality of the Private Rented Sector with longer term changes to follow in a further Bill in the next mandate.</p> <p>In addition to the new legislation, the Department has started work in some areas to improve the sector - considering how the powers of Councils can be enhanced in relation to landlord registration with links to new standards and fitness of properties. This would see Councils being provided with additional powers to strengthen and provide local enforcement of the Private Rented Sector, funded through registration fees.</p>	
<p>6.9</p>	<p>Increasing Housing Supply</p> <p>A launch of a 'Call for Evidence' document for public consultation, to help inform the housing supply strategy content will be issued next week.</p>	

6.10	Affordable Warmth Scheme It was confirmed that a budget for £16m has been confirmed for 2021/2022.	
6.11	NIHE Rent Increase The Minister approved a NIHE rent increase for 2021-22 of CPI + 1% and it has been postponed its introduction until 1 July 2021.	
6.12	ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020 It was noted that the six year €45 million programme is expected to be completed by the end of 2023. The Housing Executive issued a press release on 12 September to publicise the funding and investment which will improve the thermal efficiency of homes including cladding, new double glazing and insulation. Housing Executive's work on the schemes has started with some already completed. Contracts have been awarded for tranche 1 of No Fines schemes. Due to the restrictions put in place as a result of COVID-19 the NIHE had to halt works and as such will be behind on the programme, unfortunately the full impact of this will not be clear until normal working practices return.	
6.13	Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax It was reported that the Housing Executive would be exempted from Corporation Tax, effective from the 2020-21 tax year. The Department are continuing to liaise with DoF and HMT seeking the refund of the monies already paid by the Housing Executive over the past five years. Members will be kept updated.	
6.14	Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework The findings of the PfG outcomes framework, should be issued shortly.	
6.15	Long term rent trajectory	
6.16	Affordability of social rents	

<p>6.17</p> <p>6.17.1</p> <p>6.17.2</p> <p>6.17.3</p>	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020</p> <p>Agreed: the Secretary to seek clarification from the Housing Executive in relation particularly to ‘no fines’ properties, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the work based on either the BDA report or the Savilles Report in particular to ‘no fines’ properties? • What types of insulation does this refer to? <p>Co-ownership</p> <p>In relation to advertising Co-ownership, Mr Polley confirmed that developers on billboards and mortgage brokers promote the service.</p> <p>Agreed: the Secretary to seek clarification from the Housing Executive on the following information in relation to those presenting and being assessed for housing need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of referrals to the Private Rented Sector; • The number of referrals in temporary accommodation. • The number of referrals to co-ownership and if the Housing Executive offers co-ownership, as an option) <p>Affordable Warmth Scheme</p> <p>Mr Polley confirmed that Pension Credit has always been included in the calculation of income for the Affordable Warmth Scheme and when the new legislation is in place the income threshold will increase to £23,000. He undertook to clarify whether disability benefits Disability Living Allowance will be discounted from the calculation of income.</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>D Polley</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p><u>Older Peoples Housing Strategy Report</u></p> <p>John Goudy, Business Manager gave Members a presentation on the Older Peoples Housing Strategy Report (Copies of the Slides are appended to these Minutes – Appendix A).</p> <p>The Strategy is set out under the following four key themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning for the future: Under this theme there are two distinct strands: Exploring Housing Options for Older People, which looks at different housing models; and Supporting Independent Living, 	

12.0	<p><u>Date and Venue of Next Meeting – Thursday 10th June 2021 at 10.30 am via Webex</u></p> <p>The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, 10th June 2021 via Webex.</p> <p>It was also noted that the above monthly meeting would encompass attendance from the Housing Executive, with the Department for Communities returning to the August Monthly Meeting.</p>	
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The Meeting concluded at 12.20 pm.

Appendix A



Background



Recognition of
changing
demographics



Carried out research
– evidence based



Engagement with key
stakeholders



COVID-19 related
delays



Public consultation
period



Published Strategy
and Action Plan
March 2021

At a glance...

Over 65s
set to surpass
the number of
under 16s by
2028



By 2043
almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of
Northern
Ireland will be
over 65



4 Themes

- Planning for the future
 - Exploring housing options for older people
 - Supporting Independent living
- Promoting and maintaining dignity
- Providing housing advice for older people
- Promoting participation

Planning for the Future – Exploring Housing Options for Older People

Key Themes

- Planning
- Accessible Housing
- New models of Housing
- Designing for the future

Key Planned Actions

- Publish our SHMA for Belfast and Derry/Londonderry
- Aim to reduce end to end times for major adaptations
- Explore options for new models of housing



Planning for the Future – Supporting Independent Living

Key Themes

- Planning for the future
- Extra-Care housing
- Hub and spoke housing
- Accessible housing and designing for the future

Key Planned Actions

- Reduce end to end times for DFGs
- Pilot schemes
- Ensure older peoples needs are reflected in the new rural strategy and SP strategy
- HAPPI Pilot



Housing
Executive

DfC
Department
for Communities
www.communities.gov.uk

Radius
HOUSING

Images courtesy of Radius Housing www.radiushousing.co.uk



Housing Executive  **DfC** Department for Communities www.communities.gov.uk **Radius HOUSING** Images courtesy of Radius Housing www.radiushousing.co.uk



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Promoting and Supporting Dignity

Key Themes

- Supporting People
- Dementia Friendly
- Communication Support
- Fear of crime and ASB

Key Planned Actions

- Maximise the use of Floating Support
- Dementia Friendly Offices
- Communication Support
- Tackle fear of crime for older people



Housing Advice for Older People

Key Themes

- Support to stay
- Support to move
- Barriers to moving in later life
- Tenancy Sustainment
- Social Enterprise

Key Planned Actions

- Enhance housing advice and services
- Customer Support and Tenancy Sustainment Strategy
- 'Making your money work'
- Represent and target information for older people



Promoting Participation

Key Themes

- Loneliness
- Staying in touch
- Community Participation
- Planning and place shaping

Key Planned Actions

- Deliver Year 2 of the ONSIDE Project
- Support and encourage increased digital capability and inclusion
- Develop an older people's forum
- Deliver our Social Enterprise Strategy



Next Steps

- Included as a KPI on our 2021/22 Business Plan
- Factored into business plans
- Work towards achieving goals
- Plan Year 2 Action Plan later this year
- Year 1 update due summer 2022

john.goudy@nihe.gov.uk





CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

The Housing Centre
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8P8

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W: nihousingcouncil.org

JUNE HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 10th June 2021 at 10.30 am via Conference Call.

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

Present by Video Conferencing

Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

Apologies

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

1. Report from Grainia Long, Chief Executive, NIHE

The Report provided the Housing Council with a high level monthly update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues are outlined **as follows:-**

- Engagement with Local Councils – Revitalisation
- Stakeholder Engagement / Mapping, Press and Public Affairs
- NIHE Draft Corporate and Business Plan 2021-22
- NIHE Board Workshops: (1) Human Rights, Equalities and Diversity - Wednesday 28 April 2021; and (2) Labour Market Recovery (DfC) and Modern Methods of Construction - 1 June 2021
- Annual NIHE Performance Meeting with the Minister for Communities and Permanent Secretary
- DfC NIHE Inspection Programme
- Welfare Reform
- Housing Stock Investment

- Membership of the Northern Ireland Circular Economy Coalition
 - NIHE House Sales Scheme - ONS Decision
 - Social Housing Development Programme Outturn 2020/21
 - Feedback from attendance at DfC Management Board on 15 April 2021
 - Housing Supply Strategy (Call for Evidence) - Attendance at Project Board Meeting
 - Definition of Affordable Housing
 - Timeline for NIHE Annual Report & Accounts
 - Special Council Meeting - Derry and Strabane City Council - Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 4pm
 - Civil Unrest / Disturbances
2. Members then received presentations on Rural Housing by Sinead Collins from the Housing Executive and from the Rural Community Network, Patricia McQuillan, and Aidan Campbell

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the August Meeting, they can be accessed on the Housing Council website: www.nihousingcouncil.org

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 12th August at 10.30 am via conference call.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

Contacts

Secretary, Kelly Cameron

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Belfast

BT2 8PB

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Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 14 June 2021

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

To: All Council Chief Executives in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

Dear Chief Executive

Re: Motion - Implementation of our BDS support in relation to PSNI/An Garda Síochána partnerships with Israeli security forces and companies with involvement in illegal Israeli settlements

At the Council meeting held on 2 June 2021, the Council approved the following Motion: -

The Israeli Human Rights Organisation, B'Tselem, and the UN Human Rights Watch have both recently reported that Israel is guilty of crimes of apartheid and persecution, and the 'Ministry for Public Security' was strongly criticised for their treatment of Palestinians in the HRW As a Council who has adopted and is supportive of the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council hereby call on the Chief Constable of the PSNI and the Garda Commissioner, as well as the Department of Justice & Policing Board in the North and Minister for Justice & Policing Authority in the South, to immediately withdraw their respective forces from any and all partnerships with the Israeli ministry responsible for police and prisons (Ministry of Public Security) and from companies which are involved in surveillance in illegal Israeli settlements report.

Patrick Corrigan from Amnesty International noted that "as a matter of urgency, the PSNI should suspend all programmes with the Israeli police and security services where there's a clear risk of involvement in human rights violations...[the] police service must ensure it is not implicated in Israel's human rights violations. The distressing scenes from East Jerusalem and Gaza should now be a wake-up call."

As such, and mindful of our BDS commitments, we call on the PSNI Chief Constable and Garda Commissioner to immediately cease all partnership and involvement with the security forces of apartheid Israeli. In support of this we call on all Councils on this island to back this motion and lend their voices in support of the Palestinian call for international solidarity and BDS action".

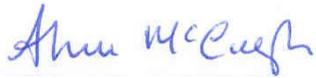
Furthermore, this Council calls on An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland due to the ongoing de facto annexation of Palestine and further requests that Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD, use his position as representative for Ireland on the UN Security Council to seek full enforcement of the UN resolutions on Occupied Palestine and East Jerusalem and that the Dublin government also calls on the EU to place sanctions on Israel. We also call on the Dublin government to

recognise the State of Palestine. Furthermore, that this Council invites the Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid, to meet with the Council so that we may convey our solidarity and support, through her, to the Palestinian people.

Representations have been made to each of the bodies included in the above Motion calling them to take the actions requested within.

The Council requests that you take the action requested of your Department as outlined in the Motion above, and it looks forward to receiving your response in due course.

Yours sincerely



Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

16 June 2021

Mayor
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

Dear Mayor

**Annual Battle of the Somme Remembrance Parade and Service
Knockagh War Memorial, Carrickfergus
Sunday 27 June 2021**

I write on behalf of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and the Knockagh Monument Joint Committee to invite you, and the Council's Aldermen and Councillors, to attend the Annual Battle of the Somme Remembrance Parade and Service to be held at the Knockagh War Memorial on Sunday 27 June 2021. **The Parade will form up at the Knockagh War Memorial at 10.40 am, to be followed by a Service at 11.00 am.** Parking will be available in the field adjacent to the monument. You will be expected to make your own transport arrangements and we would kindly request that any buses park below the podium, not blocking the road.

Regrettably, following a risk assessment in line with public health guidelines and the potential number of attendees, there will be no refreshments served following the service this year. You are kindly asked to disperse and make your way home after the parade and salute.

I should be grateful if you would complete the attached form and return it to Member Services, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ or email members.services@midandeantrim.gov.uk

I hope you will be able to join us for this significant event.

Yours sincerely



Cllr W McCaughey
Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough

Battle of the Somme Remembrance Parade and Service Knockagh War Memorial, Sunday 27 June 2021

From: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Wishes to attend the service

Is unable to attend this year's event

Numbers attending:

Service

Will your organisation be laying a wreath? (Please note that you will be required to supply your own wreath).

Yes

No

Please return to: **Member Services**
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
1-29 Bridge Street
Ballymena
BT43 5EJ

Email: members.services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk