

<b>Correspondence Report For Information</b>	<b>27 November 2018</b>
<b>Council Meeting</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Leader and Champion
<b>Outcome</b>	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Director of Corporate Services
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	Nil

<b>1.</b>	<b>EDUCATION AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLITICAL PARTNERSHIP FORUM – 24 AUGUST 2018</b>
	<p>Please find attached at <b>Appendix A</b> response from Chair of the Education Authority in response to action point raised at the last Central Local Government Political Partnership Forum held 24 August 2018.</p> <p>The next Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum is scheduled to take place on Friday 18 January 2018 between 10 am – 12.30 pm in Stormont Hotel.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING FINANCIAL CUTS</b>
	<p>At a recent meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council the under noted Notice of Motion was adopted:</p> <p><i>‘That this Council undertakes to write to the other ten Councils requesting support in lobbying central government in relation to financial cuts introduced since 2015 in the provision of community transport. These cut backs impact on individuals isolated due to rural location, physical or mental health needs and those who are vulnerable due to personal circumstances. There is an urgency to deal with this issue as these individuals are very limited in opportunities to engage with others’</i></p> <p>Council is requested to consider the Motion.</p>

3.	<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – LETTER FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY TO HSC CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>
	<p>Following Councils decision of 25 September 2018 with regard to Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan <u>that in a pregnancy both lives matter</u>, correspondence has been received from the Department of Health (<b>Appendix B</b>) in response to a letter from Council supporting the motion and calling for a perinatal hospice care or service in Northern Ireland to be established.</p>



6 November 2018

Mr D McCallan  
Northern Ireland Local Government Association  
Bradfort Court  
Upper Galwally  
Castlereagh  
BELFAST BT8 6RB

Dear Derek

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 October 2018 and the positive feedback from my presentation on 24 August 2018. I welcomed the opportunity to be involved and as indicated on the day information would be forwarded as outlined in your request.

The NISRA definition has been applied to identify a small town as a population between 5,000 and 9,999 (see appendix 1). All of these towns have more than two schools.

Appendix 2 details all of the schools with an enrolment of 50 or less. This is based on the 2017/18 enrolment numbers as published by the Department of Education.

The Education Authority recognises the importance of strengthening partnership and collaborative working through community planning. To ensure traction in this area we have recently appointed a senior officer with responsibility for Community Planning and he will be supported by a small team of officers working across all eleven LGDs. This work will enhance the links already provided through the designated Assistant Directors who sit on the Strategic Community Planning Partnerships.

The Education Authority Board is keen to maintain a close working relationship with NILGA and I look forward to having a regular dialogue on issues of mutual interest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon O'Connor', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**SHARON O'CONNOR**  
**CHAIR**

## Appendix 1

BAND E - SMALL TOWN (POPULATION 5,000 - 9,999)	(Source: NISRA)
SMALL TOWN	POPULATION
BALLYCLARE	9,919
COMBER	9,078
MAGHERAFELT	8,819
WARRENPOINT / BURREN	8,721
PORTSTEWART	8,029
NEWCASTLE	7,743
CARRYDUFF	6,947
DONAGHADEE	6,869
KILKEEL	6,521
PORTRUSH	6,442
DROMORE_BANBRIDGE	6,011
BALLYNAHINCH	5,715
COALISLAND	5,700
GREENISLAND	5,484
BALLYCASTLE	5,238
CRUMLIN*	5,099
RANDALSTOWN	5,099

## Appendix 2

Primary Schools with less than 50 pupils - 2017/18 census data				
DE School Reference Number	School Name	Management Type	LGD	2017/18 Total Pupils - Year 1 - 7
3030588	St Mary's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	8
3042162	Desertmartin Primary School	Other Maintained	MID ULSTER	16
2032473	Magheralough Primary School	Catholic Maintained	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	17
2032300	Listress Primary School	Catholic Maintained	DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	19
5011117	Drumsallen Primary School	Controlled	ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON	21
2032685	St Brigid's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	21
5012611	Lisfearty Primary School	Controlled	MID ULSTER	21
2012671	Langfield Primary School	Controlled	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	22
3012282	Culnady Primary School	Controlled	MID ULSTER	22
2012648	Gillygooley Primary School	Controlled	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	23
5046241	Drelincourt Infants School	Other Maintained	ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON	24
2012087	Bellarena Primary School	Controlled	CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	24
3033304	Tir-na-Nog Primary School	Catholic Maintained	ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	25
2011860	Belleek(2) Primary School	Controlled	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	26
4053009	Annsborough Primary School	Controlled Integrated	NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	26
3010558	Duneane Primary School	Controlled	ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	28
2032688	St Eugene's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	28
5016141	Churchtown Primary School	Controlled	MID ULSTER	29
3010470	Carnalbanagh Primary School	Controlled	MID AND EAST ANTRIM	30
5032736	St Mary's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	MID ULSTER	30
3056708	Mallusk Controlled Integrated Primary School	Controlled Integrated	ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	32
3030848	St Macnisius' Primary School	Catholic Maintained	ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	32
2032683	St Joseph's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	33
2012378	Dunmullan Primary School	Controlled	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	33
3050519	Carnlough Controlled Integrated Primary School	Controlled Integrated	MID AND EAST ANTRIM	33
2036387	St Patrick's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	34
5036001	St Mary's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	34
3010466	Longstone Primary School	Controlled	MID AND EAST ANTRIM	35
5031080	Clintyclay Primary School	Catholic Maintained	ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON	36
2012617	Erganagh Primary School	Controlled	DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	36
2032724	Loughash Primary School	Catholic Maintained	DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	36
5036463	St Joseph's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	MID ULSTER	36
2052035	Groarty Primary School	Controlled Integrated	DERRY CITY AND STRABANE	37
3013703	Kilross Primary School	Controlled	MID ULSTER	37
5016200	Queen Elizabeth II (Pomeroy) Primary School	Controlled	MID ULSTER	37
3030800	Barnish Primary School	Catholic Maintained	CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	38
2032603	Tummery Primary School	Catholic Maintained	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	38
3010780	Kirkinriola Primary School	Controlled	MID AND EAST ANTRIM	38
2036085	St Peter's & St Paul's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	39
5011152	Kingsmills Primary School	Controlled	NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	39
2011873	Aghadrumsee Primary School	Controlled	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	41
2032639	Drumduff Primary School	Catholic Maintained	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	41
3030899	Seaview Primary School	Catholic Maintained	MID AND EAST ANTRIM	42
3010570	Straid Primary School	Controlled	ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY	43
4033008	St Anne's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	ARDS AND NORTH DOWN	43
5012643	Stewartstown Primary School	Controlled	MID ULSTER	43
3032104	Ballyhackett Primary School	Catholic Maintained	CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	44

Primary Schools with less than 50 pupils - 2017/18 census data (continued)				
DE School Reference Number	School Name	Management Type	LGD	2017/18 Total Pupils - Year 1 - 7
4011599	Castlewellan Primary School	Controlled	NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	44
2011879	Newtownbutler(2) Primary School	Controlled	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	45
2012669	Queen Elizabeth II Primary School	Controlled	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	45
2031887	St John the Baptist Primary School	Catholic Maintained	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	45
2046669	Bunscoil an Traonaigh	Other Maintained	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	47
3010850	Upper Ballyboley Primary School	Controlled	MID AND EAST ANTRIM	47
4036016	St Joseph's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	47
5031107	St Teresa's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	47
2012707	Dromore Primary School	Controlled	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	49
2016395	Gortin Primary School	Controlled	FERMANAGH AND OMAGH	49
4031672	St Mary's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	49
3036268	St Ciaran's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS	50
5036057	St Malachy's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	MID ULSTER	50
4031231	St Joseph's Primary School	Catholic Maintained	NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN	50

**Central- Local Government Political Partnership Forum**  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018**  
**Stormont Hotel**

Present: *Cllr Dermot Curran, Newry Mourne and Down District Council / NILGA President; Colin McGrath, MLA; Ald Arnold Hatch, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council/ NILGA Office Bearer, Fra McCann MLA, Cllr Seán McPeake, Mid Ulster District Council/ NILGA Office Bearer, Peter Weir MLA, Ald Freda Donnelly, Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council / NILGA Office Bearer; Cllr Maoliosa McHugh, Derry and Strabane District Council; John Blair MLA; Ald Alan McDowell, Ards and North Down Borough Council/NILGA Office Bearer; Cllr Richard Smart, Ards and North Down Borough Council; Roy Beggs MLA, Ryan Murphy, Cllr Matt Garrett, Belfast City Council; Sharon O'Connor, Education Authority; Philip Cunningham, CCMS; Dr Tim Walker, Belfast City Council; Owen Lyttle, DAERA; Derek McCallan; NILGA, Karen Smyth; NILGA, Lisa O'Kane, NILGA; Antoinette Kennedy, NILGA*

*Apologies were circulated.*

## **Overview**

The Ministerial Partnership Panel between Central and Local Government has not met since October 2016. In the absence of the "Panel" and NI Assembly, NILGA convened a Central – Local Government Political Partnership Forum on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to discuss the following key subjects of common concern to both arms of government and to citizens:

- 1. Emergency Planning**
- 2. Investment in Education and Community Planning**
- 3. Investment in Sustainable Waste Management and Circular Economy**
- 4. Devolution – Practical Next Steps**

### **1. Emergency Planning**

As witnessed only last year when the North West was hit with serious floods; there is a need for a ring-fenced sustained funding source and a legal underpinning for multi-agency civil contingency planning, response and recovery for activities beyond an individual Council's remit. NI is adrift from the rest of the UK regarding fiscal and legislative certainties.

At present in Northern Ireland; funding is only confirmed and allocated on an annual basis which brings great uncertainty. As highlighted in a Paper developed by the Regional Officer for Local Government Civil Contingencies, "**Civil Contingencies is too important an area to allow any department the option to withdraw funding. The emergency planning and civil contingencies that**

are now well established and put into practice regularly in response mode are at risk of collapsing if a sustained funding mechanism cannot be agreed.”

Northern Ireland is the only region across the UK and the Republic of Ireland which does not have an agreed longer-term funding mechanism.

Emergency Planning for the year 2018- 19 was only agreed last week. **A sum of £680,000 was requested; however only £650,000 was granted.**

The following action was agreed:

**Action: In collaboration with SOLACE, NILGA will write to David Sterling, the Head of Northern Ireland Civil Service, emphasising the importance of securing a ring-fenced sustained funding source for Emergency Planning and Civil Contingencies.**

## **2. Investment in Education and Community Planning**

Sharon O’Connor, Chair of the Education Authority provided a presentation to the Forum. She provided an overview of the broad financials (\*based on available information and assumptions). She also spoke about how the Education sector and Local Government can work together to transform the provision of Education in Northern Ireland.

- £64m savings were achieved in Years 1 – 3; however financial pressures have become more apparent since Year 2.
- **There is an estimated funding gap of £58m (2018/19)**
- The challenge of applying the budget is not helped by the non-alignment between the school and financial year.
- 98% of the education budget goes to schools. Only 2% of the budget is spent in administration.
- £74m spent annually on transport; £30 million spent annually on school meals
- **There is 27m deficit in School budget.** Schools are starting to struggle. There is also a growing demand for special needs teaching. There has also been a 2% increase in the number of students entering post-primary education.
- **The Options available to tackle budget deficits:**
  - a. **Additional Money**
  - b. **Fundamental Transformation**
  - c. **Combination of a & b**

**Fundamental Transformation:** Northern Ireland has too many schools. There are a lot of schools which are not sustainable with less than 50 pupils in them. There are other schools which are not in the right places. Delivery of Education in Northern Ireland needs to be redesigned.

**Councils and Community Planning:** It is especially difficult in rural areas where small schools become more unsustainable with fewer and fewer pupils as the years pass. Communities feel they are losing something when schools face closure. In the longer-term, area planning for schools is



essential – As a Council, is there a better, more sustainable way of delivering education in our local communities?

**Model of special needs education:** In concluding her presentation, spoke about Castle Tower School in Ballymena, which educates children and young adults, 3 – 19 years. In 2017 Castle Tower School moved into a brand-new building which has been widely praised as one of most inspiring and exciting school buildings in Northern Ireland. The school is a model of what she would like to see in all our County towns. As a society we have to do something about the fundamentals for delivering education – Local Government is at the heart of this.

An interactive discussion followed Sharon O'Connor's presentation, the main points raised are summarised below:

- In England, use of school buildings for community use is common-place; not in Northern Ireland. There is an opportunity to explore opportunities.
- Everyone accepts the need for transformation; MLAs, Councillors, schools in our own localities; there is a need for Education Authority and sectoral bodies to have a much more embedded relationship with Councils.
- A lot of young people choose to attend post-primary schools outside their locality, even when there is a post-primary school in their local town. It is natural for people to gravitate to the best schools for their children; more needs to be done.
- It is easier to tailor education in urban areas compared to rural areas.
- The Education Transformation Programme is an opportunity to achieve for the future.

The following action was agreed:

**Action: Sharon O'Connor to provide information to Mr John Blair MLA and Forum attendees:**

- **Small towns with more than two schools**
- **Schools with less than 50 students**
- **Suggestions to inform better the 11 council Community Planning Partnerships**

### **3. Investment in Sustainable Waste Management and Circular Economy**

Dr Tim Walker, Head of Waste at Belfast City Council and Owen Lyttle, Head of Waste Policy in DAERA provided a presentation to the Forum on Investment in Sustainable Waste Management and Circular Economy.

Dr Walker set the context for Members and talked about the need for a huge shift in tackling our approach to Waste – and to look at waste as a “resource”. He identified the UK drivers and the challenges we are facing and the fact that we **need to take a focussed look at appropriate provision of key infrastructure.**

Mr Owen Lyttle provided an overview of Central – Local collaboration aims and the strategic outcomes he hoped would be achieved. Mr Lyttle also drew Members attention to the current governance structure, which is **currently without central and local elected member representation.**

Mr Lyttle also provided the Forum with a progress report on the meeting of targets, but highlighted that **serious barriers are beginning to emerge in relation to funding which requires Ministerial decisions.**

Dr Walker highlighted the “Pinch points” including the **impact of Brexit** – the lead for Waste Management in the UK will be coming from England; however, Wales and Scotland both perform better in Waste – there is concern that standards will slip. It was further noted that Export Markets including China soon will not be taking our plastic waste.

In summing up Dr Walker reemphasised the need for Councils to adopt new approaches and highlighted to the Forum the good “Circular Economy” activity that already exists.

An interactive discussion followed; the main points raised are summarised below:

- Circular Economy activity – was discussed - plus recycling and reuse of white goods. There are local suppliers, who take second hand white goods, repair them and sell them at a much-reduced price.
- A comment was made that there needs to be more collaboration between Councils in Waste Management- Councils need to take the lead and there needs to be more money invested in waste infrastructure.
- “Design out Waste” – Complex plastics; Major manufacturers need to be challenged to produce materials that are more easily recoverable.
- Funding for recycling centres – Discussion ensued about funding for new recycling centres. The Department argues that no such decisions can be made until a Minister is in place. It was however argued at the Forum that a precedent had already been set by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in development of the O’Neill’s Road Recycling Centre.

**Action: It was agreed that**

- 1. a letter be written to DAERA re decisions and funding for recycling centres;**
- 2. Further policy work currently developed by local – central government with policy input by SOLACE & NILGA be reported to councils and the Panel as soon as possible.**

**4. Devolution – Practical Next Steps**

Derek McCallan addressed the Forum seeking Elected Member feedback on practical next steps. There is a need to have Senior officials and the Secretary of State at future meetings of the Central-Local Political Partnership Forum until such times that the Assembly is back up and running. The following points were raised in the discussion which followed:

- Meetings of the Forum should be convened quarterly to discuss issues such as those raised today in Education and Waste; putting in place the groundwork for when the Assembly is up and running again.
- NILGA Consultation “Devolution within Northern Ireland” is currently with Councils. Responses to the consultation are sought by 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- The panel – as proposed / endorsed by Party nominated MLAs – sought further engagement in advance of year end 2018 and Council Elections in May 2019

**Date for next meeting of the Central – Local Political Partnership Forum to follow.**

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**From the Permanent Secretary  
and HSC Chief Executive**



Sinéad Duggan  
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council  
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Cloonavin  
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Our ref: RP3060  
SCORR-0872-2018

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

Dear Ms Duggan

Thank you for your letter of 8 October 2018, on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, supporting the belief that both lives matter, and calling for a Perinatal Hospice Care or service in Northern Ireland to be established.

Currently, all Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts across Northern Ireland provide support for families faced with a diagnosis of a severe, life limiting condition during pregnancy. This includes pre-natal, midwifery, obstetric and neo-natal care, psychological support, provision of information leaflets and signposting to voluntary organisations and charities which provide bereavement support such as The Miscarriage Association and Sands – the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death charity. Where necessary, very poorly infants may be transferred for care to the regional neo-natal intensive care unit at the Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital (RJMH). A small number of babies may also be transferred to the Northern Ireland Children’s Hospice (NICH) for palliative care and the hospice also provides bereavement and psychological support.

In addition, you may be aware that the Northern Ireland “Strategy for Children’s Palliative and End-of-Life Care 2016-26” and the complementary “Strategy for Paediatric Healthcare Services Provided in Hospitals and in the Community (2016 – 2026)” were published by the Department in November 2016.

The strategies are available online at:

[www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/paediatric-strategy-palliative-end-of-life-care](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/paediatric-strategy-palliative-end-of-life-care) and [www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/paediatric-strategy-hospital-andcommunity.pdf](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/paediatric-strategy-hospital-andcommunity.pdf)

The two strategies are designed to modernise and further improve the standard of treatment and care provided in hospital and community settings, as well as palliative and end-of-life care for children and their families.

Funding is now in place for implementation of the strategies, with initial action focussing on the establishment of a regional paediatric managed clinical network to ensure equity of access to high-quality services across Northern Ireland. The network will encompass a number of sub-groups, including a paediatric palliative care subgroup to take forward the implementation of the Children's Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy.

One of the objectives of the palliative care strategy is that the network sub-group will review the current provision of bereavement services provided to parents in the circumstances of a pre-birth diagnosis of a potentially life limiting condition and make recommendations to the Department on further improving the delivery of services, including the role of perinatal hospice care. In association with this, the HSC Board is currently funding a pilot project with NICH to support a link nurse working within the RJMH. This should facilitate earlier support for parents and assessment of options, including possible transfer of the baby to NICH for palliative care.

I hope this update will assure you that the Department is giving due consideration to this important issue.

Yours sincerely



**RICHARD PENGELLY**