

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Environmental Services Committee

1st December 2015

ADDITIONAL INCOME GENERATED AS A RESULT OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY BUILDING CONTROL STAFF

For Information

1.0 Report to Committee

Linkage to Corporate Plan	
Strategic Priority	Equality and Community
Objective	To ensure rates collection is efficiently and effectively administered
Lead Officer	Martin McCook
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

1.1 Background

Further to initial participation in a pilot scheme some time ago and a subsequent meeting with Land and Property Services Department of the Department of Finance and Personnel early this year, a working interagency partnership was established between Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Land and Property Services to enhance efficiency of rates collection.

An officer employed through Agency within Building Control, has undertaken the duties involved as part of his temporary employment role.

Land and Property Services have recently confirmed, as a direct result of this work, in particular inspection of vacant commercial property, between February and October, 2015 an additional £182,500 has been reclaimed in rates within Causeway Coast and Glens. It is important to note the significance of this in terms of cumulative effect. This is illustrated in the table below :-

	2015/16 to date	Additional Notes
Rates income as a direct result of project (£)	207,214	Actual figure as a result of pilot as claimed in 2012/13 and 13/14 in addition to 15/16
	85,000	Estimated Figure by LPS and subject to follow up and confirmation Feb-April, 2015
	97,500	Actual figure April to October, 2015
Cumulative income as a direct result of project (£)	389,714	

Note: This summary does not take into account property which has vacated during the period.

Land and Property Services are currently using the submissions developed and produced by this officer in their training and have praised the high calibre of his work.

The issue of occupancy is fluid and requires a continued level of monitoring in terms of rates collection. This role has also proved valuable in terms of identifying unapproved building work and reviewing address management within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area.