

Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	27 May 2025
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

Estimated Timescale for Completion

Date to be Completed	
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Budgetary Considerations

Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

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:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	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 Aoife Rooney, Deputy Registrar General, General Register Office, letter dated 06 May 2025 (copy attached)

- 2.1 Letter from the General Register Office advising that the Assembly has approved the extension of the Coronavirus Act 2020 (Registration of Deaths and Still-Births) (Extension) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025 until 24 September 2025.

3.0 Letter from Carol Walker MBE, Director, The Somme Association dated 06 May 2025 (copy attached)

- 3.1 Letter from the Somme Association advising that the 'Friends of the Somme' Yearly Subscription 2025/26 is now due. The cost is £1,000.00 +VAT = £1,200.00.
- 3.2 At the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting on 22 June 2021 and subsequent Council Meeting of 29 June 2021, it was agreed that the fees of £1,000.00 + VAT = £1,200.00 for the 'Friends of the Somme' Yearly Subscription continue to be paid in an ongoing basis.

4.0 Letter from Matthew O'Toole MLA, Chairperson, Committee for Finance, NI Assembly dated 09 May 2025 (copy attached)

- 4.1 Letter from the Committee for Finance seeking views on the Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill which was introduced on 25 March 2025. The purpose of the Bill is to amend the law relating to the manner of notification of deaths and still-births and the manner of giving particulars relating to them. It will also provide a legislative basis for the introduction of a baby loss scheme and will address differences in registration processes for births and still-births between some same-sex female couples and opposite-sex couples.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Corporate Policy and Resources Committee:

- Note the correspondence at Item 2.0 from the General Register Office advising that the Assembly has approved the extension of the Coronavirus Act 2020 (Registration of Deaths and Still-Births) (Extension) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025 until 24 September 2025.
- Note that the payment due to The Somme Association at Item 3.0 will be made for the 'Friends of the Somme' Yearly Subscription 2025/26 at a cost of £1,000.00 +VAT = £1,200.00.
- Note the correspondence at Item 4.0 from the Committee for Finance seeking views on the Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill.

Council Chief Executive via email

Date: 6 May 2025

Dear Chief Executive,

**THE CORONAVIRUS ACT 2020 (REGISTRATION OF DEATHS AND STILL-BIRTHS) (EXTENSION)
ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2025**

I am writing to advise you that the current temporary coronavirus provisions contained in the Coronavirus Act 2020 (Registration of Deaths and Still-Birth) (Extension) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025 were debated in the Assembly today. As you will be aware, these powers facilitate the remote registration of deaths and still-births and the electronic exchange of documents between stakeholders in the registration process.

I am pleased to confirm that the Assembly has approved the continuation of the extension Order until 24 September 2025.

As stated previously, it is our intention to use this time to bring forward legislation which will make these temporary powers permanent – solidifying the current registration process.

I would be grateful if the Registrars could impart this information to any funeral director contacts.

If you have any specific questions, please contact NIROS.Support@finance-ni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Aoife Rooney
Deputy Registrar General

cc
Registrars' Line Management
Registrars

THE SOMME ASSOCIATION

Vice-Presidents

The Viscount Brookeborough, DL

Chairman

Mr Alan McFarland

Director

Mrs Carol Walker, MBE



233 Bangor Road

Newtownards

BT23 7PH

Telephone 028 91823202

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Website: www.sommeassociation.com

Email: sommeassociation@btconnect.com

Face Book: The Somme Association

Honorary President:

H.R.H The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO

6th May 2025

Mr David Jackson

Chief Executive

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Cloonavin

66 Portstewart Road

Coleraine

BT52 1EY

Dear Mr Jackson

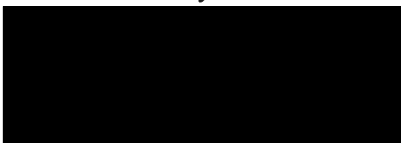
Re: 'Friends of the Somme' yearly subscription 2025/26

I am writing to inform you that your council's yearly subscription to the Somme Association is now due. This year's fee, in line with the previous year, is as follows: £1,000.00 plus VAT of £200.00 making a total of £1,200.00. The subscription relates to the financial year ending 31st March 2026. Please find an invoice enclosed which contains our bank details for BACS payments. If a purchase order number is required, could you please arrange for it to be sent to sommeassociation@btconnect.com and I will amend the invoice.

As in previous years the annual subscription is extremely important to the Association and its' work going forward in these difficult times.

The Officers of the Somme Association wish me to thank your Council for its continued support over this very difficult time and sincerely hope that it will continue to support our work at the Somme Museum and the Ulster Memorial Tower, France. May I take this opportunity to send best wishes and continuing good health.

Yours faithfully



Carol Walker MBE

Director

Enc.





The Somme Association
The Somme Museum

233 Bangor Road
Newtownards
Co. Down
BT23 7PH
Telephone: 02891823202
Email: sommeassociation@btconnect.com

SALES INVOICE

Invoice To:

Mr David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY



Invoice Date	Due Date	Purchase Number	Invoice Number	Reference	Customer Code
6 th May 2025	6 th June 2025		SA-MEM0004	SAMEM202501	Can001

Code	Description	Qty	Price/Rate	VAT %	Total
Mem	Council Membership Apr25-Mar26	1	£1,000.00	20%	£1,000.00

VAT Rate	Net	VAT	Net Amount	£1,000.00
20%	£1,000.00	£200.00	VAT Amount	£200.00
			TOTAL	£1,200.00

Notes:



Northern Ireland Assembly

Committee for Finance

Chief Executives of Councils

Issued via email

9th May 2025

Our Ref: 2025/032

Dear Chief Executive,

Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill

The NI Assembly Committee for Finance would like to hear your views on the Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill. If you are not the most appropriate person to respond, the Committee would be grateful if you could forward this letter to the relevant colleague who would be able to respond.

The Bill was introduced by the Finance Minister, John O'Dowd MLA, on 25th March 2025. The purpose of the Bill is to amend the law relating to the manner of notification of deaths and still-births and the manner of giving particulars relating to them. It will also provide a legislative basis for the introduction of a baby loss scheme and will address differences in registration processes for births and still-births between some same-sex female couples and opposite-sex couples.

Further information on the Bill can be found below:

- A copy of the [Bill](#) and [Explanatory and Financial Memorandum](#).
- The Hansard report of the [Second Stage Assembly debate](#) on the principles of the Bill that took place on 7 April 2025.
- The [Hansard report of the briefing session with Department of Finance officials on the principles of the Bill on 7 May](#) 2025 (available when published)
- A [research paper](#) prepared by the Assembly's Research and Information Service on the Bill. (available when published)

**Matthew O'Toole, Chairperson, Committee for Finance,
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 346, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.
Email: deathsstillbirthsbabyloss@niassembly.gov.uk Tel. 028 9052 1799**

How to submit your views

Your submission should be structured to address the specific clause of the Bill. If appropriate, it should include any amendments you wish to propose to the text of the Bill.

Written submissions should be sent electronically in Word format (not PDF) to: deathsstillbirthsbabyloss@niassembly.gov.uk. If you cannot submit electronically you may send in a hard copy written submission to: The Finance Committee Clerk, Room 382, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.

Organisations or individuals responding to this call for views should note that their written submission (either in whole or part) may be published on the Committee webpage and may be quoted in the Committee's report or referred to in Committee meetings (which are public and are broadcast).

The Committee recognises that in some circumstances people may prefer for their evidence to be treated as confidential, or published anonymously. If you wish to do this, please make this clear when submitting your evidence.

Before sending us your views please read the [Northern Ireland Assembly Privacy Notice](#). This tells you how we process your personal data.

If you have any queries or require any further information about the call for evidence or the Committee Stage of the Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill The Committee Clerk, Peter Hall can be contacted via email: deathsstillbirthsbabyloss@niassembly.gov.uk or by phone: 028 9052 1799.

A response would be very much appreciated by **Monday 9th June 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew O'Toole MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance

Matthew O'Toole, Chairperson, Committee for Finance,
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 346, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.
Email: deathsstillbirthsbabyloss@niassembly.gov.uk Tel. 028 9052 1799