

Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	2 September 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		N/A	
Budgetary Considerations			
Cost of Proposal			
Included in Current Year Estimates		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:
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.

1.2 The following correspondence has been received:

2.0 Alison Allen, NILGA

(email dated 20 June 2025 available upon request)

2.1 Re: Invitation – Insights Exchange - Embedding social value in councils

As part of our ongoing efforts to ensure councillors and officers have opportunities to both learn from outside the sector and learn from each other, NILGA will hold the first of a series of Insights Exchange events on 2 October 2025 from 9.30a.m. – 2.30p.m. in The Junction, Dungannon. The theme for this event will be embedding social value in councils

The event will include:

- An overview of the policy context
- Showcase of council case-studies on social value
- Panel discussion

As this event will be of interest to all councillors, and not just NILGA members, we are inviting your council to nominate up to 7 attendees (councillors and officers). Officers in your procurement / economic / community / policy teams will find the event most useful. We would ask that you table this invitation at the next appropriate committee / council meeting and forward the names of attendees to events@nilga.org by 1 September 2025.

We are also investigating the potential to hold an officer workshop on measuring social value and will confirm this as soon as possible.

3.0 Marie Ward, Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (dated 14 August 2025) (copy attached)

3.1 Re: Notice of Motion – CAR-T Cell Therapy

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 4 August 2025 the following Notice of Motion was unanimously agreed:

“That this Council:

*Recognises the urgent need for patients in Northern Ireland requiring CAR-T cell therapy to have timely and compassionate access to treatment closer to home.
Notes with deep sadness the death of Catherine Sherry, who passed away on*

12th May 2025, aged just 42, in King's College Hospital, London, while receiving CAR-T treatment. Commends the courage and commitment of Fergal Sherry and his sons, who are now advocating for CAR-T treatment to be made available to Northern patients at St James's Hospital in Dublin.

Acknowledges that the Department of Health in the Republic has an existing Memorandum of Understanding on All-Island Cancer Services, signed following the Good Friday Agreement in 1999 and renewed in 2021, which provides a framework for cross-border cooperation in oncology.

Further recognises that CAR-T treatment will not be available in Northern Ireland until 2030/31 at the earliest, and that access to St James's Hospital — where CAR-T services are already in place — would allow patients to receive treatment within driving distance of home, with the vital support of their families.

We therefore call on:

- 1. The NI Department of Health to immediately begin negotiations with their counterparts in the Republic to secure access to CAR-T therapy at St James's Hospital for eligible Northern Ireland patients;*
- 2. The Irish Government to support and facilitate this cooperation as a matter of urgency;*
- 3. This Council to write formally to Ministers Mike Nesbitt and Jennifer Carroll MacNeill requesting their intervention;*
- 4. Other councils across Northern Ireland to support this motion and stand in solidarity with Fergal Sherry, his family, and all others who may face similar hardship”.*

This Motion was discussed at length and received unanimous support from all Members and Newry Mourne and Down District Council ask for your Councils support for the Motion.

I look forward to your response.

4.0 Marie Ward, Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council,
dated 14 August 2025 (copy attached)

4.1 Re: Notice of Motion – Funding Cuts by Arts Council to National Youth Choir

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 4 August 2025 the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

“Newry Mourne and Down District Council expresses disappointment and sadness at the funding cuts by the Arts Council to the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland, acknowledges the significant cultural impact the organisation has on music in Northern Ireland, and calls on the Minister for Communities and

Arts Council to intervene to prevent the closure and write to ask the other 10 Councils to do the same”.

This Motion was discussed at length and received unanimous support from all Members who spoke at length of their dismay at having to discuss cuts to an already beleaguered arts budget.

Members spoke of how the National Youth Choir has been a platform for thousands of young singers from across Northern Ireland and a career platform for well-known performers many of whom who have gone on to represent Northern Ireland on the world stage.

I have written to the Chief Executive of the Arts Council along with the Communities Minister asking to find a way forward to prevent the collapse of this institution and request that your Council supports this motion and does the same.

5.0 Marie Ward, Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, dated 14 August 2025 (copy attached)

5.1 Re: Notice of Motion – Second Homes and Short Term Holiday Rentals

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 4 August 2025, Members considered your correspondence in relation to the position of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council regarding the impact of second homes and short term holiday rentals.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council fully supported your Motion and shared concerns regarding second homes and short term holiday lets within this District particularly in coastal and major tourism areas.

Council have agreed to carry out a scoping exercise similar to the one you have agreed to carry out and I have been asked to write to you to get an understanding of the exercise being undertaken by your Council to establish if there was a similar approach Newry Mourne and Down District Council could use and if there were any learnings that would be beneficial.

I thank you for forwarding the correspondence from your Council regarding this very important matter and look forward to your response.

6.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers the correspondence.



Our ref: C/123/2025

14 August 2025

Dear Chief Executive

Re: Notice of Motion – CAR-T Cell Therapy

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 4 August 2025 the following Notice of Motion was unanimously agreed:

“That this Council:

Recognises the urgent need for patients in Northern Ireland requiring CAR-T cell therapy to have timely and compassionate access to treatment closer to home. Notes with deep sadness the death of Catherine Sherry, who passed away on 12th May 2025, aged just 42, in King’s College Hospital, London, while receiving CAR-T treatment. Commends the courage and commitment of Fergal Sherry and his sons, who are now advocating for CAR-T treatment to be made available to Northern patients at St James’s Hospital in Dublin.

Acknowledges that the Department of Health in the Republic has an existing Memorandum of Understanding on All-Island Cancer Services, signed following the Good Friday Agreement in 1999 and renewed in 2021, which provides a framework for cross-border cooperation in oncology. Further recognises that CAR-T treatment will not be available in Northern Ireland until 2030/31 at the earliest, and that access to St James’s Hospital — where CAR-T services are already in place — would allow patients to receive treatment within driving distance of home, with the vital support of their families.

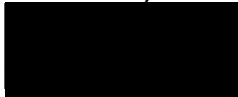
We therefore call on:

- 1. The NI Department of Health to immediately begin negotiations with their counterparts in the Republic to secure access to CAR-T therapy at St James’s Hospital for eligible Northern Ireland patients;*
- 2. The Irish Government to support and facilitate this cooperation as a matter of urgency;*
- 3. This Council to write formally to Ministers Mike Nesbitt and Jennifer Carroll MacNeill requesting their intervention;*
- 4. Other councils across Northern Ireland to support this motion and stand in solidarity with Fergal Sherry, his family, and all others who may face similar hardship”.*

This Motion was discussed at length and received unanimous support from all Members and Newry Mourne and Down District Council ask for your Councils support for the Motion.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully



Marie Ward
Chief Executive

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Our ref: C/122/2025

14 August 2025

Dear Chief Executive

Re: Notice of Motion – Funding Cuts by Arts Council to National Youth Choir

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 4 August 2025 the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

“Newry Mourne and Down District Council expresses disappointment and sadness at the funding cuts by the Arts Council to the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland, acknowledges the significant cultural impact the organisation has on music in Northern Ireland, and calls on the Minister for Communities and Arts Council to intervene to prevent the closure and write to ask the other 10 Councils to do the same”.

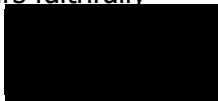
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Members spoke of how the National Youth Choir has been a platform for thousands of young singers from across Northern Ireland and a career platform for well-known performers many of whom who have gone on to represent Northern Ireland on the world stage.

I have written to the Chief Executive of the Arts Council along with the Communities Minister asking to find a way forward to prevent the collapse of this institution and request that your Council supports this motion and does the same.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully



Marie Ward
Chief Executive

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

Our ref: C/118/2025

14 August 2025

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

Email: mayorsoffice@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Dear Mayor

Re: Notice of Motion – Second Homes and Short Term Holiday Rentals

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Yours faithfully

Marie Ward
Chief Executive