

**From: The Minister**

Chief Executives of Local Councils  
Finance Officer of Local Councils

Issued via email

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **REVIEW OF THE RATES SUPPORT GRANT**

As you are aware the Department for Communities (DfC) commissioned an independent review of the mechanism of the Rates Support Grant (RSG).

The current RSG mechanism is contained in Section 27 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (2011 Act) and the Local Government (Rates Support Grant) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (2011 Regulations).

Innovation and Consultancy Services (ICS), Department of Finance, carried out the review and have provided their final report. To ensure you are kept up to date, I have attached a copy of the report for your information along with the Department's response. Overall, the report concludes that RSG is still required.

I am content to accept the majority of the recommendations, and no major changes are proposed to the current RSG methodology.

The Local Government Finance team will work with councils on some of the actions

required from the recommendations in the report.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your input to this review.

Yours sincerely



**Gordon Lyons MLA**  
**Minister for Communities**