

Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	4 November 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 Joseph McGuckin, Mid Ulster District Council (email dated 29 September 2025, copy of letter attached)

2.1 Re: CAR-T therapy

Council at its September meeting carried the undernoted motion:

That 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 campaigning for CAR-T treatment to be made available to Northern Ireland patients at St James's Hospital, Dublin.
- Acknowledges that the Department of Health in the Republic of Ireland has an existing Memorandum of Understanding on All-Island Cancer Services, first signed after the Good Friday Agreement in 1999 and renewed in 2021, which already 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 CART services are already established — would allow patients to receive life-saving treatment within driving distance of home, supported by their families.

This Council therefore calls 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 those who may face similar hardship.

I would therefore ask if you would report this request to your elected Members for consideration. I would also welcome a response to this request so that I can report back to our Members in due course.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers the correspondence.



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

29 September 2025

Our ref: C174/25

By Email: david.jackson@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway Coast & Glens District Council

Dear Mr Jackson

Council at its September meeting carried the undernoted motion:

That 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 campaigning for CAR-T treatment to be made available to Northern Ireland patients at St James's Hospital, Dublin.
- Acknowledges that the Department of Health in the Republic of Ireland has an existing Memorandum of Understanding on All-Island Cancer Services, first signed after the Good Friday Agreement in 1999 and renewed in 2021, which already 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 established — would allow patients to receive life-saving treatment within driving distance of home, supported by their families.

This Council therefore calls 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;

Cookstown Office
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Magherafelt Office
Ballyronan Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6EN

Telephone 03000 132 132
info@midulstercouncil.org
www.midulstercouncil.org

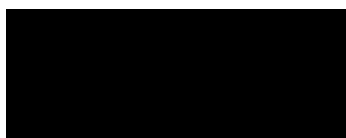


Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

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 those who may face similar hardship.

I would therefore ask if you would report this request to your elected Members for consideration. I would also welcome a response to this request so that I can report back to our Members in due course.

Yours sincerely



Joseph McGuckin
Head of Strategic Services & Engagement