

Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	Corporate Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	25 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	
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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 Gordon Lyons, Minister for Communities, dated 10 November 2025 (copy attached)

2.1 Extract Future of the Local Government Staff Commission

I am writing to advise you that I have made the decision to dissolve the Local Government Staff Commission (The Commission) with effect from 31 March 2027.

The future of the Commission has been a long-standing issue since the 2014 decision of the Executive that the Commission should be dissolved on 31 March 2017. As you will be aware, that decision was based on the outcomes of a consultation carried out by the Department. For various reasons the dissolution did not happen at that time. [...]

Given the passage of time since the original decision on this issue was made, I have therefore asked my officials to re-establish a Local Government Staff Commission Dissolution Board (originally formed in 2015) to consider and confirm the current position regarding the transfer, or otherwise, of the Commission's existing functions and any other issues arising in relation to the dissolution.

I am writing in similar terms to other interested parties including the National Association of Councillors, NILGA and NIPSA.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Corporate Policy and Resources Committee note the correspondence.

From: The Minister

Council Chief Executives

Issued via email

FUTURE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION

I am writing to advise you that I have made the decision to dissolve the Local Government Staff Commission (The Commission) with effect from 31 March 2027.

The future of the Commission has been a long-standing issue since the 2014 decision of the Executive that the Commission should be dissolved on 31 March 2017. As you will be aware, that decision was based on the outcomes of a consultation carried out by the Department. For various reasons the dissolution did not happen at that time.

A follow-up consultation in 2021 sought to ascertain if there were any reasons that the Executive's decision to dissolve the Commission should be reconsidered. Most responses agreed with the Executive's decision of 2014. However, following the suspension of the Assembly in early 2022, the then Minister for Communities decided that the issue of dissolution should not be considered until the return of the Executive. The provisional date for the dissolution of the Commission was later extended to 31 March 2027.

Having considered a number of options for the future of the Commission, I have decided to proceed with the dissolution of the Commission with effect from 31 March 2027. In forming this view, I have had regard to the Commission's current role and statutory functions, the outcomes of the previous consultations referred to above, and the Commission's position

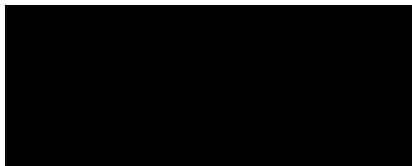
paper of May 2024. I have also sought and received the agreement of the Executive to this decision.

I acknowledge the Commission has provided excellent levels of service and assistance to councils over the past now 50 years, however, in my view, legislative changes and other developments over that time means the requirement for a statutory body such as the Commission has diminished significantly.

Given the passage of time since the original decision on this issue was made, I have therefore asked my officials to re-establish a Local Government Staff Commission Dissolution Board (originally formed in 2015) to consider and confirm the current position regarding the transfer, or otherwise, of the Commission's existing functions and any other issues arising in relation to the dissolution.

I am writing in similar terms to other interested parties including the National Association of Councillors, NILGA and NIPSA.

Yours sincerely



Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities