



Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	2 June 2026
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 Councillor Jackson Minford, Mayor, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
(email dated 18 May 2026, copy attached)

2.1 Extract

***Annual Battle of the Somme Remembrance Parade and Service
Knockagh War Memorial, Carrickfergus, Sunday 28 June 2026***

I write on behalf of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and the Knockagh Monument Joint Committee to invite you, and the Council's Aldermen and Councillors, to attend the Annual Battle of the Somme Remembrance Parade and Service to be held at the Knockagh War Memorial on Sunday 28 June 2026. The Parade will form up at the Knockagh War Memorial at 10.40 am, to be followed by a Service at 11.00am. Parking will be available in the field adjacent to the monument. Following the Service, you are invited to Carrickfergus Town Hall, Antrim Street, for a light buffet lunch. Please feel free to extend this invitation to your Freeman, including Legacy Freeman.

For ease of administration and for catering purposes, I should be grateful if you would complete the attached form and return it to Member Services, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ or email members.services@midandeantrim.gov.uk by Friday 19 June 2026.

I hope you will be able to join us for this significant event.

3.0 Naomi Long, Department of Justice (email dated 19 May 2026, copy attached)

3.1 Extract

RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE POLICING BOARD

The term of office for a number of independent members of the Policing Board is scheduled to end shortly. I intend to launch a recruitment competition in the near future in order to fill these vacancies. The Policing Board plays a critically important statutory role in ensuring that an effective and efficient police service is in place. The Board is also tasked with bringing stability to, and instilling confidence in, the PSNI.

In accordance with Schedule 1, s.8(2) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, and before making any appointments to the Board under s.6(1)(b) of the Act, there is a statutory requirement for the Justice Minister to consult:

- a) the First Minister and deputy First Minister;*
- b) district councils; and*
- c) such other bodies as considered appropriate.*

It is imperative that appropriate appointments are made to the Policing Board to ensure that it has the required knowledge, skills and experience in providing independent oversight of policing in Northern Ireland and holding the Police Service of Northern Ireland to account on behalf of the public. It is envisaged that the criteria for the recruitment competition will likely include a need for candidates to demonstrate abilities in:

- Managing and Influencing Relationships;*
- Strategic Focus;*
- Corporate Governance and Organisational Performance; and*
- Organisational Leadership.*

In seeking to appoint independent members to the Board, I am committed to the principles of public appointments being made on merit, with independent assessment, openness and transparency at the heart of that process. The recruitment competition and appointment process will be regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland.

If you wish to provide any comments in respect of the matter, I would be grateful if you could do so within 2 weeks of the date of this letter.

I hope you find this of assistance.

4.0 Professor Paul Bartholomew, Ulster University (letter dated 28 May 2026, copy attached)

4.1 Extract

Thank you for your recent correspondence, inviting me to meet with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to discuss the very difficult financial position that the University faces, and the consequential proposal to introduce a staff reduction.

I am grateful to Council for their interest in this matter and I share the concerns that Members have expressed in relation to the seriousness of the situation.

I very much welcome the opportunity to attend a forthcoming meeting to discuss the complexity of the challenges we must address, and to discuss how we can work together to safeguard the provision at all of our campuses.

Due to a prior commitment, I am unfortunately unable to attend the meeting on 2nd June as suggested, but I am delighted that we will be able to have this important conversation at the meeting of Council on 30th June.

I look forward to engaging with Members and exploring these issues together.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers the correspondence.

18th May 2026

Mayor
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
COLERAINE
BT52 1EY

Dear Mayor

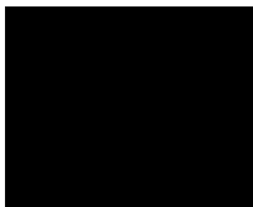
**Annual Battle of the Somme Remembrance Parade and Service
Knockagh War Memorial, Carrickfergus
Sunday 28 June 2026**

I write on behalf of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and the Knockagh Monument Joint Committee to invite you, and the Council's Aldermen and Councillors, to attend the Annual Battle of the Somme Remembrance Parade and Service to be held at the Knockagh War Memorial on Sunday 28 June 2026. **The Parade will form up at the Knockagh War Memorial at 10.40 am, to be followed by a Service at 11.00 am.** Parking will be available in the field adjacent to the monument. Following the Service, you are invited to Carrickfergus Town Hall, Antrim Street, for a light buffet lunch. Please feel free to extend this invitation to your Freeman, including Legacy Freeman.

For ease of administration and for catering purposes, I should be grateful if you would complete the attached form and return it to Member Services, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ or email members.services@midandeastantrim.gov.uk by Friday 19 June 2026.

I hope you will be able to join us for this significant event.

Yours sincerely



Cllr. Jackson Minford
Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough

Please reply to:

Head Office
The Braid
1-29 Bridge Street
Ballymena BT43 5EJ

Ballymena Office
Ardeevin
80 Galgorm Road
Ballymena BT42 1AB

Carrickfergus Office
Museum & Civic Centre
11 Antrim Street
Carrickfergus BT38 7DG

Larne Office
Smiley Buildings
Victoria Road
Larne BT40 1RU

Planning Office
Silverwood Business Park
190 Raceview Road
Ballymena
BT42 4HZ

**Interim Chief
Executive**
Valerie Watts

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Minister's Office Block C,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG
Tel: 028 9076 5723
DOJ.MinistersOffice@justice-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: SUB-0179-2026

David Jackson
Chief Executive

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

via email: info@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

19 May 2026

Dear David,

RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE POLICING BOARD

The term of office for a number of independent members of the Policing Board is scheduled to end shortly. I intend to launch a recruitment competition in the near future in order to fill these vacancies. The Policing Board plays a critically important statutory role in ensuring that an effective and efficient police service is in place. The Board is also tasked with bringing stability to, and instilling confidence in, the PSNI.

In accordance with Schedule 1, s.8(2) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, and before making any appointments to the Board under s.6(1)(b) of the Act, there is a statutory requirement for the Justice Minister to consult:

- a) the First Minister and deputy First Minister;
- b) district councils; and

c) such other bodies as considered appropriate.

It is imperative that appropriate appointments are made to the Policing Board to ensure that it has the required knowledge, skills and experience in providing independent oversight of policing in Northern Ireland and holding the Police Service of Northern Ireland to account on behalf of the public. It is envisaged that the criteria for the recruitment competition will likely include a need for candidates to demonstrate abilities in:

- Managing and Influencing Relationships;
- Strategic Focus;
- Corporate Governance and Organisational Performance; and
- Organisational Leadership.

In seeking to appoint independent members to the Board, I am committed to the principles of public appointments being made on merit, with independent assessment, openness and transparency at the heart of that process. The recruitment competition and appointment process will be regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland

If you wish to provide any comments in respect of the matter, I would be grateful if you could do so within 2 weeks of the date of this letter.

I hope you find this of assistance.

Yours sincerely



NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

Please ensure that you quote our reference number in any future related correspondence.

Councillor Oliver McMullan
Mayor
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Via email: mayorsoffice@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

28th May 2026

Dear Mayor

Thank your recent correspondence, inviting me to meet with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to discuss the very difficult financial position that the University faces, and the consequential proposal to introduce a staff reduction.

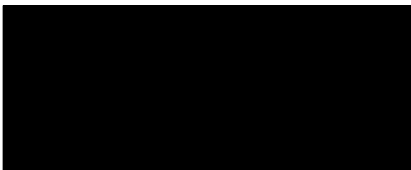
I am grateful to Council for their interest in this matter and I share the concerns that Members have expressed in relation to the seriousness of the situation.

I very much welcome the opportunity to attend a forthcoming meeting to discuss the complexity of the challenges we must address, and to discuss how we can work together to safeguard the provision at all of our campuses.

Due to a prior commitment, I am unfortunately unable to attend the meeting on 2nd June as suggested, but I am delighted that we will be able to have this important conversation at the meeting of Council on 30th June.

I look forward to engaging with Members and exploring these issues together.

Yours sincerely



Professor Paul Bartholomew CBE
Vice-Chancellor & President