

Title of Report:	Conference Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	4 August 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

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	See cost against each Conference
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	3101-62507
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 inform Elected Members of conferences and courses they may wish to attend.

2.0 The following is listed:

2.1 36th La Touche Legacy Seminar & 11th Festival of History (email received 7 July 2026, copy attached)

- 2.2 **Date:** Saturday 19th September 2026
Location: Greystones Golf Club, Whitshed Road, Greystones 10:00-1:00pm
Cost: €50

2.3 Extract:

The Chair of the La Touche Legacy Committee, Mr. George Jones, said he was delighted on behalf of the committee to formally announce details of this year's La Touche Legacy Seminar/11th Festival of History to be held on Saturday 19th September in Greystones Golf Club.

Mr. Jones indicated that following the 2025 seminar, the committee were considering its options for going forward, and, after consulting with our many stakeholders, it was decided to go ahead this year with a revised formula for the seminar.

The revised seminar will take place on the Saturday September 19th with three top class talks followed by a lunch in the superb surroundings of Greystones Golf Club.

As usual there will be a warm welcome to all our attendees by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Dr. Caroline Winstanley and Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Cllr. Mark Barry.

This year's lectures will be provided by Mr. Frank Barry Professor Emeritus Trinity Business School, Mr David McCullagh, RTE, & Mr. Stephen Collins former Political Editor of the Irish Times.

Members wishing to attend this event should contact Democratic Services.

3.0 The Politics of Delivery: Leading Through Uncertainty, NILGA (email received 24 July 2026, copy attached)

- 3.1 **Date:** Thursday 8 October 2026
Location: Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
Cost: £25 (+VAT) per person

Extract:

The 2026 Local Government Conference will take place on Thursday, 8 October at Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn.

*The conference theme, “**The Politics of Delivery: Leading Through Uncertainty**”, will explore how councils can deliver meaningful outcomes in the face of global political and financial pressures, fragile public trust, and rising expectations.*

It will also highlight the role of courageous, values-driven leadership and community-focused innovation in building trust and resilience. More information on the conference is available [here](#).

As NILGA’s only conference during this mandate, it provides a valuable opportunity for councillors and officers to learn from one another and help shape the future direction of local government. We have confirmed a strong line-up of expert speakers who will share insights on how councils can respond effectively to the challenges and uncertainties ahead.

NILGA encourages councillors and officers from all 11 councils to attend this flagship event in the 2026 local government calendar. To support elected members attending, NILGA will cover the cost associated with attendance of those on the NILGA Executive. Where an Executive member is unable to attend, the relevant party office bearer will nominate an alternative councillor.

As many councillors and officers are encouraged to attend and a 50% discount will apply, reducing the delegate fee to £25 (+VAT) per person. This discounted rate is intended to encourage wider attendance from elected members and officers across member councils. We would be grateful if you could ensure that this letter is considered by members at the full council meeting.

Council places can be booked using the following [booking form](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an excellent event.

Members wishing to attend this event should contact Democratic Services.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council consider the Conference report.



La Touche Legacy
in association with
Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society

11th Festival of History – 36th La Touche Legacy Weekend

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Saturday 19th September 2026

Greystones Golf Club, Whitshed Road, Greystones

10.00 Official Opening and welcome by
Mr. George Jones, Chairman of the La Touche Legacy Committee

Welcome by
Councillor Dr. Caroline Winstanley, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council
and
Councillor Mark Barry, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District

10.15
Mr. Frank Barry, Professor Emeritus Trinity Business School
'Industry and Policy – Independent Ireland 1922 – 1972'
Chairperson:

11.00 Coffee

11.15
Mr. David McCullagh, RTE
'From Crown to Harp: How the Treaty was undone, 1922-49'
Chairperson:

12.30
Stephen Collins, Journalist & Author (ex Irish Times) Guest Speaker
Followed by lunch

Fee: €50 **Bookings:** Kay Coughlan **Tel:** 01 2878448 **Email:** Kcoughla@wicklowcoco.ie
Further Info: George Jones **Email:** george.anthony.jones@gmail.com **Tel:** 086 821 7357

Details for the 36th La Touche Legacy Seminar & 11th Festival of History.

The Chair of the La Touche Legacy Committee, Mr. George Jones, said he was delighted on behalf of the committee to formally announce details of this year's La Touche Legacy Seminar/11th Festival of History to be held on Saturday 19th September in Greystones Golf Club.

Mr. Jones indicated that following the 2025 seminar, the committee were considering its options for going forward, and, after consulting with our many stakeholders, it was decided to go ahead this year with a revised formula for the seminar.

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As usual there will be a warm welcome to all our attendees by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr. Dr. Caroline Winstanley and Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Cllr. Mark Barry.

This year's lectures will be provided by Mr. Frank Barry Professor Emeritus Trinity Business School, Mr David McCullagh, RTE, & Mr. Stephen Collins former Political Editor of the Irish Times.

Biographies for the speakers are attached.

Mr. George Jones said he was once again delighted that the La Touche Legacy has the Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society as partners for the Seminar and thanked the Society Chair, Dr. Cormac Moore, for recently nominating the La Touche Legacy for the Cultural Award in the 'People of Year Awards' held by Greystones Municipal District.

To register /book for this year's event, please contact Kay Coughlan 01 2878448 or Email Kcoughla@wicklowcoco.ie.

The Seminar fee is €50 and will include all lectures, coffee and lunch.

Further information is available from

Mr. George Jones 086 821 7357 or Email george.anthony.jones@gmail.com

Frank Barry Professor Emeritus Trinity Business School

Title of First Lecture

Industry and policy independent Ireland, 1922-1972

Frank Barry is Professor of International Business & Economic Development at the Trinity Business School and a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

He has held positions at the Universities of Stockholm, California, and New South Wales, and with the Harvard Institute for International Development.

He has acted as a consultant for the World Bank, the European Commission, the African Economic Research Consortium, and various Irish and UK government agencies.

His current research interests are in the fields of foreign direct investment and economic and business history.

Publications

Barry Frank, The Evolution of the Irish 12.5 Percent Corporate Tax Rate: An Oral History, *Enterprise and Society*, 2025, p1 - 25 Journal Article, 2025

Barry, Frank, and Michael Scholz, The Regional Location of Indigenous and Foreign Manufacturing Establishments, 1929-1975, *Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland*, 53, 2024, p34 - 56 Journal Article, 2024

Barry, Frank, A reappraisal of Cumann na nGaedheal economic policy, *Irish Political Studies*, 39, (2), 2024, p139 - 161 Journal Article, 2024

David McCullagh RTE

Title of Second Lecture

From Crown to Harp: how the Treaty was undone, 1922-49

David began his journalistic career working for the *Evening Press* in 2001.

In August 2025, McCullagh was named as the successor to Claire Byrne as the presenter for *Today With...* on RTÉ Radio 1, and began in November. He signed off from the *Six One News* on 31 October 2025.

In September 2025, he hosted a series on Éamon de Valera.

His most recent book is called *From Crown to Harp: how the Treaty was undone, 1922-49*, which tells the tale of how Ireland escaped from the Treaty.

Stephen Collins, Lunch Speaker

Title of Lecture

"Current Political Climate"

Journalist and author, former Political Correspondent with [*The Irish Times*](#).

In 1983–84 Collins sat on the New Ireland Forum, a body designed to establish common ground amongst Irish nationalist political parties. His later criticisms of Charles Haughey, who also sat on the Forum, were, it has been said, primarily moulded by the complacency with which he had seen Jack Lynch's handling of the Arms Crisis of 1970. Collins has published books on the Cosgrave political dynasty and, more recently, on the foundation of the Progressive Democrats political party, called *Breaking the Mould*. His father Willie Collins (1916–2006) was a journalist with the Irish Press and was deputy editor of *The Sunday Press*, and Stephen is the older brother of *Sunday Independent* News Editor Liam Collins.



Councillor Dawn Huggins
Mayor
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
COLERAINE
BT52 1EY

24 July 2026

Dear Councillor Huggins,

The 2026 Local Government Conference will take place on Thursday, 8 October at Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn.

The conference theme, “**The Politics of Delivery: Leading Through Uncertainty**”, will explore how councils can deliver meaningful outcomes in the face of global political and financial pressures, fragile public trust, and rising expectations.

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Yours sincerely

Alderman Hazel Legge
President, NILGA

Alison Allen
Chief Executive, NILGA