

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Correspondence Report</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 June 2024
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Information
<b>For discussion In Committee</b>	No

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	The Borough comprises cohesive and stable communities which work collaboratively with a range of stakeholders to address issues and deliver on opportunities.
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure & Development

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES/NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	n/a
Code	n/a
Staffing Costs	n/a

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	N/A
Legal Opinion Obtained	N/A

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	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**

**The purpose of this report is to present Correspondence for Members consideration.**

**2.0** The following items are listed:

### **2.1 Correspondence from the Acting Director of the Community Empowerment Division, Department for Communities on Minister Gordon Lyons initial budget allocations for 2024/25. (Dated 05 June 2024)**

Communities Minister Gordon Lyons has announced the Department's initial Budget 2024-25 allocations. An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) consultation will launch on 11 June 2024.

The consultation will be published on the Department's internet site and will run until 3 September 2024. The EQIA asks for views on the allocation of funds for the financial year 2024 to 2025.

A summary of the Minister's initial Budget 2024-25 decisions is available through the following link:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/news/minister-launch-budget-consultation>

Members are asked to note the contents of the correspondence.



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From: Acting Director of CED,  
Tony Murphy

Telephone: 02890 515208  
E-mail: tony.murphy@communities-ni.gov.uk

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Chairperson/Chief Executive

## **MINISTER'S INITIAL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR 2024-25**

Communities Minister Gordon Lyons has today announced the Department's initial Budget 2024-25 allocations. An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) consultation on the Department's initial Budget 2024-25 allocations will launch on 11 June 2024.

The consultation will be published on the Department's internet site and run until 3 September 2024. The EQIA asks for views on the allocation of funds for the financial year 2024 to 2025.

### **2024-25 Financial Challenge**

The Executive's NI Budget 2024-25 allocations result in the Department facing a significant shortfall in both Resource DEL (£115.8m / 17%) and Capital (£167.3m / 48.5%) against bids submitted for 2024-25. The allocations are further compounded by recent high levels of inflation, adding to the cost of delivering public services, and increased demand for public services.

Difficult decisions have been considered by Minister to shield core public services as far as possible, while living within his Budget for 2024-25. A summary of the Minister's initial Budget 2024-25 decisions is available on the Department's [internet](#) site.

For those Voluntary and Community sector groups receiving funding support from the Community Empowerment Division (CED) and the Voluntary and Community Division



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(VCD), this means £1.45m of additional Resource funding has been made available in 2024-25. (£800k for CED supported groups and £645k for VCD supported groups)

The Minister welcomes comment on any aspects of his initial Budget 2024-25 decisions. You / Your organisation are encouraged to make responses to the Budget 2024-25 EQIA at the earliest opportunity. Responses received will be used to inform the Minister's final allocation of funds for 2024-25, including any necessary mitigations. Responses will also be used to consider further in-year mitigations, budget reallocations or to direct any additional funding that may emerge over the course of the financial year.

If you have any concerns, please liaise with your Development Manager who is available to discuss.

Yours sincerely

Tony Murphy  
Acting Director, Community Empowerment Division  
Engaged Communities Group



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available for the remainder of 2024/25, given the absence of clarity on the overall budget settlement for the Department.

I can assure you that as Minister for Communities, I am committed to doing everything within my gift to ensure that organisations can continue to deliver critical services to the most vulnerable and to those who are most in need of support and advice.

I appreciate that this will not meet the immediate needs of all organisations, but I hope it goes some way to providing a level of support that will help sustain critical services and retain experienced staff. Officials from across the Department continue to be available to help support organisations and to provide advice and guidance on the various programmes.

I would hope that we will be in a position to confirm your funding allocation as soon as possible once the Executive agrees the 2024/25 Budget and, in the meantime, I am very grateful to you and your organisations for all that you do to support the most vulnerable in our communities.

Yours sincerely,

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