



<b>Subject:</b>	Correspondence received - Department for Communities (Regeneration Powers)
<b>Date:</b>	8th May, 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Is the decision eligible for Call-in?**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the correspondence received from the Department for Communities, in response to the request in relation to regeneration powers.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the update and correspondence as set out in the report and to consider if any further action is necessary.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.2	At its meeting in February, the Committee was provided with an update on the Regeneration Lobbying and Advocacy Paper and Regeneration Framework regarding the work which had been undertaken in relation to the Place Based Growth Proposition and Regeneration.
3.3	At the meeting, it was agreed that the Council would write to the Minister for Communities to request that work is undertaken with all the relevant stakeholders to achieve the conferring of regeneration powers to councils with the appropriate budgets within this Assembly mandate (Appendix 1).
3.4	Accordingly, a response has been received from Mr. P. Anderson, Director, on behalf of the Minister, which provides an update on the issue (Appendix 2). It notes that the Minister has indicated that he has no plans currently to devolve any additional powers to local councils as this would require a fundamental review of the current position across several Departments and would potentially require Executive referral.
3.5	It states that the issue of further work being required to revisit the potential transfer of regeneration powers to Councils was most recently raised at the Partnership Panel meeting in August 2022 at which it was agreed that Local Government and Central Government officials would engage to discuss what a future transformation of regeneration powers could look like.
3.6	The response outlines that, in October 2022, the PSG/SOLACE Engagement Forum co-chairs agreed that SOLACE would undertake scoping work to understand what is meant by regeneration powers. The Department awaits the outcome of that work.

3.7	In addition, a meeting has been scheduled by SOLACE for the end of May, to meet with the Director of City Regeneration and Development, NILGA, and Mid Ulster District Council to discuss the issue and next steps.
3.8	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.9	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – BCC Letter to DfC - Regeneration Powers - 28 March 24</p> <p>Appendix 2 – DfC Response = Regeneration Powers - 16 April 24</p>