

John Walsh
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

12th September 2024

Dear John

Re: NILGA Leadership Programme for Elected Member Development

As you know, NILGA coordinates an all-council Regional Programme of Elected Member Development annually, complementing your Council's local training, designed to provide elected members with a co-ordinated toolkit of learning, suited to today's responsibilities and challenges, and in line with the NILGA Political Skills Framework.

This builds on the NILGA-delivered/nationally-accredited Councillor Development Charter and Charter Plus initiatives. The Regional Programme has been co-designed by councils' elected member development groups and councils' member services and human resource officials, working through the NILGA Elected Member Development Network.

A key part of this Regional Programme is the ***CPD-accredited Leadership Programme for Elected Members***, offered by NILGA in conjunction with Governance International. The eight 3-hour modules in this Programme aim to develop the practical skills necessary for a strategic understanding of the context within which councillors work (people, place and systems) and the capabilities they need, using relevant models and concepts to help them improve their strategic leadership approach in a local political environment. This will be the fifth running of this highly commended Leadership Programme and will commence in January 2025, with monthly modules.

NILGA and Governance International would very much welcome an opportunity to come along to one of your Council Meetings in advance of January 2025, to promote the Leadership Programme to your elected members.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued positive approach and engagement with the NILGA Regional Programme for Councillor Development 2024-25. Please feel free to contact

my colleague Fiona Douglas (f.douglas@nilga.org) or myself if you or a senior colleague wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Allen".

Alison Allen
Chief Executive

CC. Fiona Gunning
Jim Hanna