



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources (Transition) Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Review of Public Administration
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2009
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Peter McNaney, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer (ext. 6202)

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Relevant Background Information</u></b>
1.1	The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) in conjunction with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) has organised a 'Reform of Local Government Communication Seminar' on 27 <sup>th</sup> March, 2009, 10.15am to 12.45pm in the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick.
1.2	The purpose of the event is to provide attendees with a progress update on the Review of Public Administration process and the work being undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers to explore potential future service delivery options for Local Government.
1.3	A formal invitation and programme for the event has been received by the Chief Executive, dated 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2009 (copy attached at Appendix 1), and has been circulated to all Elected Members to consider if they would wish to attend the seminar.
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
2.1	This is an important event as attendees will be given an opportunity to comment on the emerging proposals of PricewaterhouseCoopers in regards to potential future delivery models for transferring functions (e.g. planning, urban regeneration, community development, local economic development and public realm aspects of local roads).
2.2	This will entail carrying out an economic appraisal embracing a range of models which include delivery of services directly by the 11 councils, on a group basis or on a regional basis. Without wanting to pre-empt the options to be put forward as part of this work, arguments may emerge in regards to shared services for specific specialists areas.
2.3	It is important that any emerging proposals take account of the new community planning and power of well-being responsibilities to be conferred to councils and should be underpinned by the core principles of strong Local Government; the role of Local Government in supporting place shaping; the need for single point accountability at the local level; ensuring improved customer centric services; and value for money considerations.
2.4	Members will recall that the Committee had agreed, at its meeting on 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2009, that the Council should, to the greatest extent possible, assume full responsibilities associated with the transferring functions and that this would be the position on which the Council would engage with the work being undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers.
2.5	Whilst there is no direct fee for to the seminar, approved duty is sought for those Members who wish to attend the event and for the attendance of the Chief Executive and Director of Core Improvement (or that of their nominees).

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	Whilst there is no direct fee for the seminar, there may be minimal travel expenses incurred.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

Members are asked to agree that approved duty would apply for those Members who wish to attend the event and for the attendance of the Chief Executive and Director of Core Improvement (or that of their nominees).

#### **Documents Attached**

<b>Appendix 1</b>	Invite to Reform of Local Government Communication Seminar
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6 March 2009

Dear Mayor and Chief Executive

## **1. Reform of Local Government Communication Seminar**

### **Service Delivery Options For the Design of Local Government**

**10.15am – 12.45pm**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick**

NILGA working in conjunction with SOLACE would like to invite you to an extended NILGA meeting to facilitate an opportunity for wider communication and discussion about the ongoing work to implement the Reform of Local Government.

As many will be aware much ground work has been covered to begin the process. For example the legislative timetable is set and the Policy Development Panels are now finalising their early policy proposals to inform legislation. A full consultation is due to take place in the next few months.

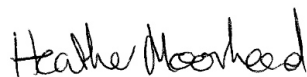
However, we are now entering a crucial stage in the process to agree the final design model for the new councils and any support services. PricewaterhouseCoopers have been commissioned by the Department of the Environment, under the direction of Policy Panel C, to explore the service delivery options. The first stage of this work is nearing completion and both NILGA members and SOLACE felt that it is essential for councils to be given the opportunity to engage in the process.

Every Councillor is invited to attend the meeting and each individual council can send up to two senior officers.

To facilitate catering arrangements it would be helpful if each council could collate the attendees and return the enclosed form to Sarah Dinnie at [s.dinnie@nilga.org](mailto:s.dinnie@nilga.org) or on 028 90798972.

Refreshments will be available from 10.30am and we plan to end the day with a sandwich lunch. I do hope you will be available to join us on the 27 March.

Yours sincerely,



Heather Moorhead  
Chief Executive

Enc. Reply Slip

# Agenda

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comments</b>
9.15 – 9.45	Coffee	NILGA members
9.45 – 10.30	NILGA essential Business	NILGA Members Only
10.15 – 10.45	Coffee and Scones	Arrival of Non NILGA members
10.45– 11.00	Introduction  Summary of the progress to date and overview of Implementation framework	Cllr J Mathews NILGA  Trevor Polley – Chair of SOLACE
11.00 – 11.15	Discussion	
11.15 – 11.35	Service Delivery options Emerging Findings	David Finnegan PWC
11.35 – 12.15	Discussion	
12.15- 12.30	Overview of Guidance for Voluntary Transition Committees and Supporting arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Programme Management</li> </ul>	Ian Maye DOE
12.30 – 12.45	Discussion	
12.45	Closing Remarks	