



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Request for Deputation from NIPSA re Abolition of the NIHE
Date:	22 nd March, 2013
Reporting Officer:	Mr Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager ext. 6314
Contact Officer:	Mr Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer ext. 6313

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Correspondence has been received from the Deputy General Secretary of NIPSA seeking to address the Committee in relation to the abolition of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. A copy of the correspondence is attached.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The Committee will recall that the Council at its meeting on 4th February passed the following notice of Motion:</p> <p><i>“This Council recognises the need for reform of the Housing Executive; notes with concern the approach of the Minister for Social Development to this reform and urges Belfast City Council to write to the Minister to ensure that any proposed reforms are enshrined in the principles and values of equality and housing allocated on the basis of need.”</i></p>
2.2	A response was received from the Minister (copy attached) in which he indicates his appreciation that the Council recognises the need for the reform of the Current Housing Model.
2.3	The Minister also states that, in relation to the allocation of housing, his Department’s recent consultation exercise on the Housing Strategy 2012-17 invited comments on a review of the allocation policy and the responses showed strong support for continued housing allocation on the basis of need. The Minister also intends to consult further on this issue before the policy is revised to ensure that there is an agreed and consistent definition of what housing need means in Northern Ireland. He points out that, fundamental to the review of allocations are the principles of fairness and equity, the need to ensure that the

2.4	<p>most vulnerable in society are supported and that the necessary services and interventions are in place to allow the most vulnerable to access decent housing.</p> <p>Under the proposed new structures, the Regional Housing Body would be responsible for the allocation of housing on the basis of need.</p>
3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	None associated with this report

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	None associated with this report.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to consider the request from NIPSA and to take such action thereon as may be determined.

6.0	Decision Tracking
Officer responsible – Jim Hanna	

7.0	Documents Attached
<p>Copy of correspondence from NIPSA</p> <p>Copy of response from the Minister.</p>	