



Subject:	Correspondence received - Pre Accession Assistance – EU Commission Response
Date:	21st August, 2026
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance Co-ordinator

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number	
1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 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 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Sometime in the future	☐
Never	☐
Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider the correspondence received from the EU Commission in relation to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 22nd May, 2026, the Committee agreed to write to the EU Commission and the British and Irish Governments to request that Northern Ireland be granted access to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) for the ability to draw down on the available funding.
3.2	Subsequently, Democratic Services wrote to the European Commission on the issues which had been raised, and the following response has been received via email for consideration: <i>“Dear Ms McGoldrick</i> <i>Thank you for contacting the Europe Direct Contact Centre.</i> <i>The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) supports countries that are formally recognised as EU candidate or potential candidate countries in preparing for EU membership. It is not intended for regions within Member States or third countries outside the enlargement framework. Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, is therefore not eligible for IPA funding.</i> <i>For more information, please refer to the following page:</i> <i>https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/funding-technical-assistance/overview-instrument-pre-accession-assistance_en</i> <i>We hope you find this information useful. Please contact us again if you have any further questions about the European Union, its activities or institutions.</i>
3.3	An additional update will be provided to the Committee once further responses have been received.

3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None