



the voice of local government

Gerry Millar
Director of Improvement
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

CORE IMPROVEMENT TEAM
1 7 JUL 2008
Forward to
Reference *G.M.24/07*

11th July 2007

Dear Gerry,

Re NILGA/Belfast Engagement

Thank you for your letter dated 3 June. The letter was reported to the NILGA Executive on the 13 June. Members welcomed the positive approach to the proposals made by NILGA and look forward to the Council strengthening their engagement with us.

Action Agreed Proposals

- Additional Places on the NILGA Executive

To action the agreed proposals our DUP and SF nominating officers have already been in contact with the City Council DUP and SF group leaders to identify new representatives to sit on NILGA Executive. We hope to have your new Executive members in place no later than the AGM in September.

- Belfast Officer Liaison

In addition it would be helpful if you could advise us of the officer who will act as a liaison officer between the Council and NILGA to ensure we can forward to them all the relevant information. The next executive meeting is the 8th of August.

NILGA Subscriptions

- 2008/09 Subscription Charge

(Belfast proposal to pay an annual subscription of £76,230 based on the percentage of the NI population rather than the £104,328 charge based on the penny rate product)

NILGA discussed this proposal and felt that it was an inequitable proposition for the rest of the Councils. As you are aware the current subscription regime was negotiated some time ago and the current system will be reviewed in 2010 in the context of membership of the new constituent councils.

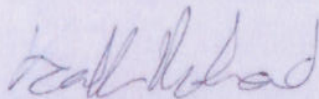
Members therefore requested that we should proactively and creatively explore further options with you about reaching an accommodation in the interim period. Specifically we would like to suggest that any outstanding

finance could be allocated to NILGA as 'in kind' support. This could include for example, such services as legal advice, policy and research support, and professional support regarding NILGA business planning and performance management.

In closing, I hope you agree that this represents a potential way forward which balances the concerns expressed by Belfast City Council and the need for NILGA to provide an equitable service to all its members. I would like to reiterate that this is an interim solution only as it is hoped an agreed settlement which is acceptable to the City Council can be developed in the context of a revised NILGA post 2011.

I look forward to hearing from you in relation to the issues detailed above and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the development of a service agreement or any other proposal you may have.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heather Moorhead', written in a cursive style.

Heather Moorhead
Chief Executive