

25<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Dear Transition Committee Chairs and Chief Executives,

**Local Government Proposals to Support Efficiency and Collaboration  
Voluntary Transition Committee  
Engagement Event**

**10.30am – 12.30pm, Friday 12 March 2010, – Venue to be confirmed**

I am writing to invite Transition Committee members and Chief Executives to an engagement event to discuss proposals to support efficiency and collaboration across the sector.

As you will no doubt be aware, Minister Poots considers that proposals in the PwC report to create a Business Services Organisation provide the best option for councils to drive efficiencies and contribute to the cost of local government reform. While the concept of collaboration is strongly supported, Local Government agrees that this should be voluntary and driven by councils. The Minister was advised at the December SLB meeting that the sector unanimously rejected the statutory collaboration model. In response, he requested that Local Government produce alternative proposals to deliver similar levels of projected savings.

Since December, significant work to develop an alternative model of voluntary collaboration has been undertaken across the sector through meetings, consultations with SOLACE, NILGA members and officers from other regions. The high level principles for this alternative model are attached at Annex A and were presented to the Minister at the SLB meeting today, 25<sup>th</sup> February, with the **caveats** that more work was required to agree detailed figures and targets, and to further engage with Transition Committees / Councils. The paper was presented for illustrative purposes only.

Members were therefore delighted that the Minister agreed the paper in principle, subject to further detailed work between his and local government officials.

Following the SLB meeting, NILGA Office Bearers and SOLACE representatives agreed that it was imperative to urgently engage directly with Transition Committees on the principles. To facilitate this, we would like to invite all Transition Committee members and Chief Executives to a seminar to ensure they have the opportunity to hear firsthand the detail of the principles, the ongoing work on financial models, and to debate the key issues and concerns.

The seminar will take place on Friday 12 March 2010, venue to be confirmed, commencing at 10.30am and we would encourage everyone to attend this important event. We look forward to seeing you there and would be grateful if you would confirm the approximate number of Transition Committee members attending **by 5 March 2010**. Please contact Lesley-Ann Black via email at [l.black@nilga.org](mailto:l.black@nilga.org) or via telephone at 028 90 798972 with details of attendees.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor JOHN MATHEWS  
President Northern Ireland Local Government Association**

