

Extract from minutes of -

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

15th APRIL, 2010

**“Local Government (Disqualifications)
(Amendment) Bill**

The Director of Legal Services advised the Committee that correspondence had been received from the Committee for the Environment seeking the Council's views on the draft Local Government (Disqualifications) (Amendment) Bill. He explained that the sole purpose of the Bill was to amend the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 to make provision to disqualify Elected Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly from holding office as Councillors.

The Director pointed out that Section 4(1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 currently prescribed a range of circumstances which would disqualify a person from holding office as a Councillor. The Bill would extend the 1972 Act to preclude MLAs from being, or being elected, as a Councillor. Following Royal Assent, it would be the intention that the Bill would be operative on the day of the next District Council Elections, which were expected to take place in May, 2011.

The Director of Legal Services stated that the Bill addressed a political issue and an excess of 140 individuals and organisations, including political Parties, had been consulted. The comments received were strongly in favour of the proposal. Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee agree not to offer any objection to the introduction of the Bill.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.”