



<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	NILGA – Proposed Amendment to Constitution
<b>Date:</b>	18 May 2012
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ciaran Quigley, Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney (Ext. 6202)

<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Relevant Background Information</u></b>
1.1	Correspondence has been received, dated 20 April 2012, from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association requesting that the Council consider a proposed amendment to its Constitution (copy attached at <b>Appendix 1</b> ).
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
2.1	The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) acts as a voice and representation body for elected Members from local government; providing a forum for collective discussion on regionally significant policy issues and assisting with the formation of collective policy positions as necessary.
2.1.2	NILGA is supported by all the main political parties with 25 of the 26 local councils being current members (with Newtownabbey not a member). NILGA comprises of 147 elected representatives and a 27 (+ 5 observers) Executive Committee including a President and 4 Vice-Presidents.
2.1.3	Belfast City Council has currently 17 elected Members nominated onto NILGA with 1 Member designated as an Office Bearer and 3 Members on the NILGA Executive (see <b>Appendix 2</b> ).
	<b>Constitution of NILGA</b>
2.1.4	As part of the current NILGA Constitution nominations to the NILGA Executive Committee is through a political nomination process and not Councils themselves. Each political party is given a designated number of seats on NILGA Executive, based on party strengths, and it is for the party to designate which members are nominated. This has resulted in some councils not being represented on the NILGA Executive albeit they are invited to attend as observers with no voting rights (e.g. Ards, Coleraine, Carrickfergus, Larne, Limavady, and Strabane currently hold observer status).
2.1.5	In the spirit of seeking to be inclusive of all councils, NILGA are proposing to make a minor amendment to its Constitution to provide those councils with observer status the <u>ability to vote</u> at Executive meetings. In terms of governance, any such amendment to the NILGA Constitution must be consulted upon with all member councils.
2.1.6	NILGA has stated its intention to undertake a more detailed review of its Constitution in parallel with the creation of the new 11 council model within Northern Ireland and the proposed elections to Shadow Councils in May 2014. Belfast City Council will be consulted upon any such review.

<b>3.0 Resource Implications</b>
There is no HR or financial implications contained within this report.

<b>4.0 Recommendations</b>
Members are asked to consider whether they agree to the proposed amendment to the NILGA Constitution subject to a more detailed review being undertaken in due course with consultation to be undertaken with the Council as part of this process.

## **5.0 Appendices**

**Appendix 1** NILGA correspondence

**Appendix 2** Belfast City Council membership on NILGA

## APPENDIX 1



Mr Peter McNaney  
Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council  
Belfast City Hall  
BELFAST  
BT1 5GS

20<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Dear Peter,

### CONSULTATION – ALL 26 LOCAL AUTHORITIES in NORTHERN IRELAND

#### The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) – Proposed Amendments to Constitution

As part of delivering enhanced representation for councils within the Northern Ireland Local Government Association I enclose, following Executive and Full Members' approval the following proposed amendment to NILGA's Constitution:

Section 8, sub section (c), and item (vi) presently states:

*"A Council not represented on the Executive shall be entitled to nominate one member to attend, but not vote at, Executive Meetings"*

The proposed amendment would state:

*"A council not represented on the Executive shall be entitled to nominate one full member to attend, and vote at, Executive Meetings".*

Section 8 of NILGA's Constitution is attached for your reference.

**Please determine whether you (a) agree or (b) disagree with this proposal at your next Full Council or relevant Standing Committee, under NILGA business.**

NILGA's sustainability and its value to the sector will continue to be developed.

This will be done through ever more effective regional (NI) elected member representation on a wide range of key bodies, through contemporary, regional, cost effective services, by strong lobbying and by presenting key policy positions for the sector's consideration, protection and long term benefit.

The Constitution will be further consulted upon in parallel with the local government elections proposed for May 2014 and the Association's Corporate Plan.

**I look forward to receiving your response (a letter, email or an extract of the relevant minute of your council) by 4pm on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012.**

Thank you as always for your timely consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek McCallan', written over a horizontal line.

**Derek McCallan**  
Chief Executive

Enc: Extract from NILGA's Constitution (Section 8)

## **Extract from NILGA's Constitution**

### **8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- a) The Executive Committee shall be composed of (a) the office-bearers together with a number of ordinary members, that number being equal to the number of member councils plus two; and (b) three Chief Executives nominated for that purpose by the Advisory Group.
- b) Each political party holding at least six seats on the Association shall be entitled to appoint ordinary members to the Executive Committee in proportion to the number of seats, which they hold on the Association.
- c) It shall be the function of the Executive Committee
  - (i) to advise or instruct the Secretary of the Association on any matter which because of its urgency cannot await the decision of the full Association;
  - (ii) to consider, and advise the Association on, any matter which the Secretary of the Association presents to the Committee;
  - (iii) to make appointments to outside bodies with reference to direction of the nominating officers in accordance with the provisions of Clause 9 hereof.
  - (iv) To make recommendation to the Association on any proposal to change the Association's constitution.
  - (v) The three Chief Executives shall be entitled to attend, but not vote at, meetings.
  - (vi) **A council not represented on the Executive shall be entitled to nominate one member to attend, but not vote at, Executive meetings.**

## Belfast City Council NILGA Membership – January 2012

1. Councillor Tim Attwood
2. Alderman Tom Ekin
3. Councillor Matt Garrett
4. Councillor Tom Haire
5. Councillor Deirdre Hargey
6. Councillor Tom Hartley
7. Councillor John Hussey
8. Councillor Mervyn Jones
9. Councillor Brian Kingston
10. Councillor John Kyle
11. Councillor Nichola Mallon
12. Councillor Patrick McCarthy
13. Councillor Jim McVeigh
14. Councillor Caoimhín Mac Giolla Mhín
15. Councillor Adam Newton
16. Alderman Jim Rodgers
17. Councillor Guy Spence



**Confirmation of NILGA Members  
(January) 2012**

**Confirmation of Office Bearers**

*President* Cllr Evelyne Robinson (Ballymoney, DUP)

*Vice-Presidents*

Cllr Sean McPeake (Magherafelt, SF)  
Cllr Arnold Hatch (Craigavon, UUP)  
Cllr Dermot Curran (Down, SDLP)  
Cllr Tom Ekin (Belfast, AP)

**Confirmation of Executive Membership**

**DUP**

Cllr Roger Burton (Dungannon & South Tyrone)  
Cllr Mrs Freda Donnelly (Armagh)  
Cllr John Hussey (Belfast)  
Ald Maurice Mills (Ballymena)  
Cllr Jenny Palmer (Lisburn)  
Cllr Paul Robinson (Fermanagh)  
Cllr Denny Vitty (Castlereagh)  
Cllr Peter Weir MLA (North Down)

**Sinn Fein**

Cllr Sean Begley (Omagh)  
Cllr Mickey Cooper (Derry)  
Cllr Brendan Curran (Banbridge)  
Cllr Caoimhín Mac Giolla Mhín (Belfast)  
Cllr Sean McGuigan (Dungannon & South Tyrone)  
Cllr Margaret McKillop (Moyle)  
Cllr Mickey Ruane (Newry and Mourne)

**UUP**

Cllr Alex Baird (Fermanagh)  
Cllr Mrs Joan Baird MBE (Banbridge)  
Cllr Robert Burgess (Down)  
Ald Jim Dillon (Lisburn)  
Cllr Mrs Marion Smith (North Down)

**SDLP**

Cllr Seamus Doyle (Banbridge)  
Ald PJ McAvoy (Ballymena)  
Cllr John O'Kane (Fermanagh)  
Vacancy (Derry)

**Alliance**

Cllr Alan Lawther (Antrim)  
Cllr Stephen Martin (Lisburn)

**Chief Executives**

Mr Ashley Boreland (Ards)  
Mr Thomas McCall (Newry and Mourne)  
Mr David McCammick (Antrim)  
Mr Daniel McSorley (Omagh)

**Observers**

Ald Michael Coyle (Limavady)  
Cllr Eric Ferguson (Carrickfergus)  
Ald Robert Gibson (Ards)  
Cllr William King MBE (Coleraine)  
Cllr Kieran McGuire (Strabane)  
Cllr Mark McKinty (Larne)