



Subject:	APSE Local Government Commission 2030
Date:	21 February 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
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Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members are asked to note early engagement between officers and APSE as an initial response to APSE's Local Government Commission 2030 inquiry.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is, therefore, asked to: a) note that officers have had early engagement with APSE on this inquiry to highlight headline issues for local government; b) agree that as the independent inquiry progresses that Council will provide a comprehensive corporate response.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The APSE Local Government Commission is conducting an independent inquiry into the future role of local government across the United Kingdom. The Commission believes that after years of austerity across public services, local government faces a number of wicked policy issues, be it growing inequalities, housing, climate change or public health. At the same time, the organisational landscape of local government has undergone a patchwork reorganisation through City Deals and combined authorities, partnerships and shared services, asset transfers and local authority companies.</p>
3.2	<p>The Commission will consider the future role of local government across the broad themes of stewardship of place; local finance and funding regimes; local government organisation and structures; workforce capacities and roles; local service provision; local democracy and accountability; community leadership, equality and diversity; and centre-local relations.</p>
3.3	<p>To understand and evaluate what these issues mean for the future of our local councils the APSE Local Government Commission will develop an independent analysis of the state of local government in the United Kingdom and focus on its future challenges and emerging role in delivering a New Municipalism. Importantly, the Commission has taken 2030 as its key date on the horizon, signaling its commitment to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainability.</p>
3.4	<p>The Commission will then produce a report, with recommendations, in early 2021, based on its findings from written and oral evidence from interested parties across the UK. The Commission has stated that its recommendations will recognise the multiple, complex and evolving systems that mark the landscape of local government across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.</p>
3.5	<p>Members are invited to note that in terms of early engagement with APSE, officers have indicated that likely key areas of interest for Belfast would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhanced devolution to local government including regeneration, planning, skills investment and planning, and local transport planning; • enhanced local investment powers, to ensure that councils have the fiscal levers to tackle issues at community and city level; and

3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the introduction of legislation/measures that strengthen the relationship between central and local government, including a duty to collaborate to provide for responsive and integrated public services delivery at regional, city and community level. <p>As part of the evidence gathering process APSE are hosting a special evidence session for Northern Ireland Local Government to further inform the work of the Commission. This session is being held today and council officers are in attendance. This session is the first face-to-face engagement between APSE and local government and Members will have the opportunity to feed into this work as the inquiry progresses.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.8	<p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Appendices – Documents Attached</u></p>
	<p>None</p>