



Subject:	Partnership Panel
Date:	21 August 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Christine Robinson, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Manager Mark Mulholland, Policy and Performance Analyst

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	To advise Members that Communities Minister, Carál Ní Chuilín, recently announced that she is to reconvene the Partnership Panel – a body set up to strengthen relationships between the NI Executive and local government.
1.2	This meeting is scheduled to take place on 16 September 2020 and the invite letter is provided at Appendix 1 to this report for your information.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is, therefore, asked to:

	<p>a) agree that proposed agenda items for Partnership Panel meetings be reported through this committee, or to the Party Group Leaders Forum when committee timings are not viable to ensure political oversight; and</p> <p>b) agree that in future the minutes and outcomes of the Partnership Panel shall be reported back to this committee for information and consideration.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 provided for the establishment of the Partnership Panel for NI. The Act provides for all Executive Ministers (including Junior Ministers) to be members of the Partnership Panel. Local government representation on the Panel comprises one nominated elected Member from each of the 11 councils (designated as a position of responsibility) and cross-party representation from NILGA.
3.2	The Partnership Panel provides a structured, political relationship between central and local government, creating opportunities for innovative working between Ministers and councillors, and the formation of joint policies which will ultimately improve co-ordination and help deliver better outcomes for local people. It has not met since 2016.
3.3	Minister Ní Chuilín has indicated that reconvening the Partnership Panel will provide an opportunity to discuss how we can continue to work together for the benefit of everyone, particularly in the social and economic recovery from Covid-19. It will provide an opportunity to consider joint policy design on key issues of public concern and improve coordination between departments and councils.”
3.4	It is therefore anticipated that the next meeting of the Panel will explore how both tiers of government can continue to work together in leading recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Recognising the importance of the financial and organisational sustainability of local government for progressing this recovery within their local areas and communities. The meeting will also be asked to agree Standing Orders and Terms of Reference for the Partnership Panel and these have been provided at Appendix 2 and 3 to this report for your information.
3.5	As a position of responsibility, Councillor McAteer’ s role will be to provide a corporate voice for the Council, alongside working with other local government representatives to promote wider local government sector positions, on key areas which require closer engagement and action from relevant Executive Ministers and their departments.

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p>	<p>Councillor McAteer shall be supported in this role by officers in the Strategic Hub. Briefing will be provided reflecting the current priorities of the Council and the wider local government sector through continued involvement and engagement with local government bodies such as SOLACE NI and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA).</p> <p>It is understood that agenda items for the September Meeting of the Panel will include Finance, Recovery Plan and City Deals.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Partnership Panel Letter of Invite, 5 August 2020</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Partnership Panel Standing Orders, November 2016</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Partnership Panel Terms of Reference, November 2016</p>