

This newsletter provides you and your council with information on key NILGA activities which have delivered tangible results for our sector. The newsletter includes information on the **Salting of Footways, Welfare of Animals, the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership** and the **Local Government Bill and Planning Bill**.

SALTING OF FOOTWAYS - UPDATE

Roads Service officials will meet with NILGA and SOLACE representatives on 17th June 2011 to determine agreement for winter 2011.

Issues including evidence of actual cost to deliver service, insurance, materials provision and local variations will all form part of the discussion, with political, technical and chief officer representatives all keen to anticipate and manage the issue rather than react to it when severe weather occurs.

THE £100 MILLION PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND - LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFERED "AAA rated home for their cash"

CCLA announces £100m PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND. Designed with guidance from the Local Government Association (LGA) the key objectives are security, liquidity and yield. CCLA is a specialist fund manager for charities and local authorities in existence since 1971. NILGA's Chief Executive is meeting with the Fund representative Mark Davies on 11th July. Essentially the Fund allows public sector investors with a common interest to invest together. For more details, contact www.ccla.co.uk and click on the 'Public Sector Deposit Fund' page.

WELFARE OF ANIMALS - UPDATE

Thanks to NILGA elected members and Alan Burke (CEO, Dungannon & S Tyrone) for driving the case for a practical, cost effective solution to this issue.

In view of the £760,000 p.a. on offer for each of four years and the commonly held view that this simply isn't enough, an interim business model is being developed, with the purpose of enabling the transfer of funding from DARD to local government and to enable the preparatory work, in advance of the implementation, being taken forward by a clear business model, based on technical and financial input from the local government sector.

NILGA has communicated with SOLACE and relevant technical officer employees so that all are fully engaged as part of service planning / resource implications.

NORTHERN IRELAND STRATEGIC MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP

In keeping with other LGAs in England, Wales and Scotland, NILGA has recently taken on the role as coordinating partner for the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP). It joins 11 other regional migration partnerships in the UK in encouraging collaboration between stakeholders to inform migration policy in a way which will provide greater local benefit. The Partnership will be made up of key figures from the Northern Ireland Assembly departments, from Education, from Health and Social Services, from the PSNI, from the voluntary and community sector, from the private sector, and a number of elected Councillors. The aim of the NISMP is to work across the spheres of government in Northern Ireland and with other key stakeholders to ensure that Northern Ireland is a welcoming place for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to support the retention and integration of people in a way that supports social cohesion and future economic growth.

Vital to this, as the **UK Border Agency** has confirmed, are local experiences and knowledge. NILGA's Bethany Bradley (b.bradley@nilga.org) will be driving the Partnership here in NI, with elected member input and specialist officer input sought as the Partnership is formed. *Inaugural meeting scheduled for 8th July 2011.*

NILGA - "Your Local Government Association"

FULL MEMBERS MEETING - 24th June 2011, Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim from 9.30am

Political break-out meetings will be held at 10am with the main meeting commencing at 1030am with the launch of the Healthy Cities "Tackling Inequalities and Promoting Wellbeing - A Guide for Political Representatives" initiative.

NILGA FULL MEMBERS LIST

A list of all 147 Members of NILGA following appointments by Councils is available upon request.

Executive, Working Group and Outside Body Representation will be finalised during June 2011. NILGA looks forward to serving the collective interests of the local government sector in the period ahead and looks forward to your participation.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL AND PLANNING BILL

NILGA remains key to the provision of elected member input into the public sector reform programme and related legislative changes and has sought – along with SOLACE - formal discussions with the DoE Minister on a number of critical matters for the local government sector including Pensions Reform and proposed transfers of functions.

EUROPEAN UNION PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

There is a critical role for local government to help stimulate economic growth through the drawing down of European investment and limiting the negative cost impacts of forthcoming EU policy **and legislation**.

NILGA has negotiated with its sister organisations in England, Scotland and Wales a combined regional set of European support services that will strategically maximise EU funding revenue and enable less time and money being spent by front-line service and associated budgets because of bureaucracy and pending legislation. The service is provided with financial assistance from DFP and the Local Government International Bureau.

The 'NILGA Knowledge Bank' will not only offer investment and regulatory advice, but also improve the planning of new EU programmes being designed for 2014 – 2020 – local authority input into this is absolutely vital so as to reduce the seemingly endless frustration currently experienced regarding the management and dissemination of substantial EU funds.

The NILGA EU Knowledge Bank is designed not to look back and apportion blame, but to look forward and get investment to the point of need faster whilst remaining accountable and reducing net costs to ratepayers.

We know from the European Commission that the regional budget for Cohesion Funds for 2007 – 2013 was €1 billion, the same again for the Common Agricultural Policy – yet local government received **less than 4% of this**. This could be as high as 10% - hence the tailored service and planning ahead for Councils in NI.

EQUALITY COMMISSION EVENT - SECTION 75 MASTERCLASS

The Equality Commission together with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association will be holding a Masterclass for Local Government stakeholders entitled 'Promoting equality of opportunity and good relations in Local Government' on Wednesday 29th June from 10.00am until 1.00pm at the Craigavon Borough Council Civic and Conference Centre. Invitations will have been circulated, however if you require any further information please contact Steve Gray by telephone: 028 9089 0858 or by email: sgray@equalityni.org

We welcome your feedback on this newsletter, please send to Derek McCallan, NILGA Chief Executive, d.mccallan@nilga.org

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