

Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most - Draft Programme for Government 2024-2027

Clear Direction, Real Change, Thriving Communities



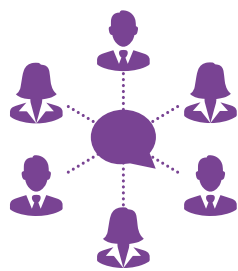
As the voice of local government, the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) welcomes the Draft Programme for Government 2024-2027. While we appreciate the progress reflected in the draft publication, we also acknowledge the significant challenges facing our public services and the pressing need for comprehensive reform.

Local councils play a crucial role in delivering public services. They are the most community-focused, place-oriented, and people-centred part of government, yet they represent an untapped opportunity. The Programme for Government must recognise the potential of empowering our 11 local councils, who have already taken pioneering steps to transform public services. Achieving this will require a new approach that enhances the powers of local councils and allows them to drive the necessary transformation to address both current and future challenges in public services.



The voice of local government

Our consultation response emphasises that we cannot achieve the needed transformation without empowering local government. NILGA has outlined five guiding principles which are essential for realising the priorities and missions of our plan:



1.

A true whole-systems approach



2.

Equal partners in transformation



3.

Councils as custodians of place



4.

Sustainably resourcing missions



5.

Whole-systems accountability

For the Programme for Government to succeed, it must be built on strong local foundations. Governments across these islands are beginning to recognise that genuine transformation can only take place by unlocking the full potential of local government. This presents a unique opportunity for enhanced collaboration and alignment across various sectors.

NILGA, representing local government, emphasises that meaningful progress requires cooperation among central and local governments, public bodies, the private sector, and voluntary organisations. We are committed to working with the Northern Ireland Executive to turn this Programme for Government into reality, contributing to the delivery of key missions and ultimately, to a better future for everyone.

Link to the full report [here](#)