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**Society of Local Authority Chief Executives
and Senior Managers
Northern Ireland Branch**

BRANCH MINUTES

Venue **Craigavon District Council
Civic Centre
Lakeview Road**

Date & Time **Friday 1 October 2010 at 10.30am**





POSITION	PRESENT	APOLOGY
<i>CHAIR</i>	<i>David McCammick</i>	
<i>SECRETARY</i>	<i>Liam Hannaway</i>	
<i>VICE CHAIR</i>	<i>Ashley Boreland</i>	
<i>TREASURER</i>	<i>Valerie Watts</i>	<i>Valerie Watts</i>
<i>VICE SECRETARY</i>	<i>Liam Flanigan</i>	
<i>AUDITOR</i>	<i>John Briggs</i>	
<i>PAST CHAIR</i>	<i>Trevor Polley</i>	<i>Trevor Polley</i>
	<i>John Quinn</i>	<i>Norman Davidson</i>
	<i>Danny McSorley</i>	<i>Michael Docherty</i>
	<i>John Dumigan</i>	<i>Eddie Curtis</i>
	<i>John Dempsey</i>	<i>Heather Moore</i>
	<i>Roger Wilson</i>	<i>John McGrillen</i>
	<i>Geraldine McGahey</i>	<i>Brendan Hegarty</i>
	<i>Richard Lewis</i>	<i>Tom McCall</i>
	<i>Anne Donaghy</i>	<i>Jacqui Dixon</i>
	<i>Nora Winder</i>	<i>Alan Cardwell</i>
	<i>Philip Faithfull</i>	<i>Adrian Kerr MBE</i>
	<i>Kevin Heaney</i>	<i>Robert Gilmore OBE</i>
		<i>Mick McGuckin MBE</i>
		<i>Peter McNaney</i>



IN ATTENDANCE		
DOE		John Price
SOLACE Policy Officer	Christine Horner	

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 As above.

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2.1 DOE sent apologies for this meeting.

3. Presentations / Discussions

3.1 None

4. MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of Branch meeting on Friday 3 September 2010

The minutes of the branch meeting on Friday 3 September 2010 were noted, it was agreed to clarify some points before the next meeting

4.2 Matters Arising – Action Sheet

5.3

John Dempsey confirmed that he received correspondence from the Chief Electoral Officer in response to the issues raised at the last branch meeting and will circulate the letter to all members. Members discussed the issues arising from elongated count processes and payment of staff for the building, security etc. A further meeting of the Elections group has not yet been arranged, but the indications are that the Elections will take place on the First Thursday in May 2011.

JD to circulate copy of CEO response to all members

4.3 Minutes of Executive Meeting

The minutes of the Executive Meeting on Friday 17 September were proposed as a true reflection of the meeting by Liam Hannaway and seconded by David McCammick

4.4 Matters Arising

The Secretary confirmed that a response to the Regional Infrastructure Programme issued on Thursday of this week a copy will be circulated to all branch members for information.

CH to circulate RIP response to all members

5. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

5.1 VAT on Leisure Services

JJ Tohill contacted the office to confirm that he is awaiting further input from Ciaran Quigley before completing the report to Solace. He hopes to have this for the next solace meeting.

CH to follow up with JJ Tohill for Executive Meeting

5.2

CSR Preparing to address Budget Challenges outcomes from 20 September meeting

The Chairman referred to the paper on CSR budget challenges circulated earlier this week and asked that it be circulated to a wider audience in Councils. Members expressed concern that there is very little awareness in the public arena, particularly with other Ministers, about the impact on localities of the current or anticipated cuts to the resources grant. Concerns were also raised on equality screening issues of these cuts and it was acknowledged that there should be a wider awareness with politicians on a wider basis. It was agreed that

- N Winder will facilitate a meeting with the 18 councils affected by the cuts;
- the issue will be raised at the NILGA Executive by Nora Winder and
- Nora has written to Bumper Graham and copied all CEX's into that letter;
- NILGA will obtain formal legal advice from Derry City Council on section 75 and Equality issues.

NW to facilitate a meeting with affected councils

5.3 Outcomes of the branch meeting on 17th September 2010

The notes were circulated to all members and it was agreed that the Solace Executive Committee will review the next steps.

CH to note outcomes for Executive Agenda

5.4 Feedback Bumper Graham Meeting with Solace

The Chairman reported that Bumper Graham has agreed to join the ICE HR Group.

5.5 H & S Strategy for NI

The Chairman sought branch endorsement for the Health and Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland. Branch members endorsed the Strategy for signature by the Branch Chair.

CH to advise Kieran Doherty

6. PRIORITY ISSUES

6.1 Collaboration and Efficiencies Regional Governance Group

Ashley Boreland confirmed that the work is progressing on phase 2 of Governance, this addresses queries from the consultation on Governance and a scoping exercise to obtain 3 options, with one preferred option. NILGA members will act as champions for this work to others.

6.2

Communications

It was noted that the Communications working group have met and agreed that information of the progress to date will be shared shortly. A support template and guidance for councils to examine their functions will be produced and it is proposed that the change managers will test this out with council staff before publication. The HR, Procurement, Asset Management, Customer Facing and Support Services work continues. The drafting of a business case will start shortly.

6.3 Transfer of Functions

This area is being led by Peter McNaney, Kevin Heaney gave an update on the work that has been going on behind the scenes. There are political, issues around what functions will in fact transfer and when they will transfer as well as resources, which should transfer with the functions. A more full discussion will be necessary on governance, and bureaucracy surrounding central functions. Members raised concerns that efficiency is dominating the agenda.

7. NILGA

7.1 The chairman noted the NILGA review and that several SOLACE members had attended the first meeting with NILGA. Another meeting is being arranged for next week. The chairman encouraged an additional SOLACE member to attend the next meeting as issues remain to be resolved.

7.2

2012 Olympics

Philip Faithfull confirmed that the leadership group has not met in the last 6 months, however there is a meeting next week and there are implications for officers and councils on the proposed £1500 bursaries which DCAL are seeking councils to fund. Tara Cunningham of NILGA will circulate more information in the near future.

7.3

LPS Editorial

The chairman noted the free editorial that LPS are providing for each of the 26 councils, the input may be as simple as a telephone number or web page reference, but the opportunity should be utilised.

8. CORPORATE PARTNERS

- 8.1** PWC – negotiations are continuing, the draft agreement has been received and passed to Sonia for consideration. The sum from PWC has been increased to £5000.00 and they are keen to seek new ways of engaging.
 Consilium – The agreement has been signed on the same terms as last year.
 Tascomi – Negotiations are just beginning.

CH to take forward with Sonia and provide paper to branch

9. SOLACE CONFERENCES & EVENTS

- 9.1** **6 & 7 October Slieve Donard LGSC HR Conference**
 Members were reminded to encourage attendance at the conference.
- 9.2** **SOLACE NI Annual Conference**
 12-14 October
 No members are available to attend
- 9.3** **20 October Co-Operation Ireland Social Inclusion / Active Citizenship conference Four Seasons Hotel.**
- 9.4** Noted
22 October Chairman Annual Dinner in the Old Courthouse Antrim
- 9.5** Noted
Maximising the Impact of EU Funds – Energising Growth Wed. 27 October 2010 Hilton Templepatrick
 Noted

10. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- 10.1** **NITB Report**
 Branch members agreed that as Councils support tourism in all of the NI local council areas the Branch is content that the Solace logo is used on the report.
- 10.2** **Sustainable Development**
 Anne Donaghy confirmed that the event at Cookstown last week had obtained a wide view on the issues. NILGA are pulling together a response. It was agreed that Anne will work with the Solace Policy Officer to prepare a response.

CH to advise NITB

CH and AD to draft response

11. Correspondence / consultations for Action

- 11.1** **NILGA Draft response to the consultation on meeting EU landfill Diversion Targets**
 Noted

11.2 NILGA Draft response to the Consultation on the introduction of restrictions of landfilling certain wastes.

Noted

11.3

Stage Two consultation on the transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive

It was agreed that the branch will endorse the sector response.

11.4

FSA Consultation on the Official Feed and Food Controls (Amendment) Regulations NI 2011

Noted

CH to action

Communication Slot

12.1

Salting of Pavements

John Dumigan raised the issue of the draft Memorandum of Understanding on salting of pavements and sought members thoughts on the issue. The majority of members confirmed that their insurance companies would not cover the council if they undertook this additional work, however they pointed out that elected members are getting pressure from residents and business in their area. It was agreed that the Department of Regional Development has the power to do this. It was agreed that NILGA will do a short paper on this and note the consequences for councils of taking this issue on board. The closing date for consultation is 5 October. It was proposed that a joint Solace / Nilga rejection of this proposal from the Department will be most effective.

NILGA respond to

12.2

Local Government Awards For Northern Ireland

The policy officer updated members on the recent discussions in relation to the awards. Members agreed that they support widening out the Solace category to include joint initiatives with Central, local, private or voluntary sector partners. The name change to 'Best Joint Initiative' should cover this.

CH to confirm with APSE and partners

12.3

Local Adult Safeguarding Partnerships introduction of 5 sub regional groups

Liam Hannaway confirmed that Anne Donaghy has undertaken the role on the regional body and the Department are seeking members for the geographically grouped sub regional bodies. It was agreed that Anne will approach 5 appropriate Directors from different relevant departments to represent local government.

AD to seek 5 appropriate Directors

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AOB

13.1

DPP and CSP

Geraldine McGahey sought an update on the current status of the



work on DPP and CSP's. It was confirmed that the last meeting of the review group was on the same day as the Solace meeting. Members voiced various concerns on the issue and noted that there is a meeting on 20 October, and that option 2 was agreed on consultation. Members noted the Conference on 21 and 22 October on the Justice Bill. Liam Hannaway agreed to speak to the Department of Justice and issue an update to all Solace members.

LH to circulate
update on DPP/
CSP

14. DATE OF NEXT BRANCH MEETING

Friday, 5 November 2010
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Committee Room 44

DRAFT