



By Email Only: committee.infrastructure@niassembly.gov.uk

Date: 5th May 2026

Dear Mr Potter,

Re: Review of Planning: Call for Evidence

The scope of Committee for Infrastructure review falls outside the Council's planning remit as all regionally significant projects are processed by the Department for Infrastructure.

I acknowledge, however, we may on occasion be consulted, asked to provide advice if the project affects land within the Council area, or make representations for or against a proposal. While our input is limited, the Council may still have had a view on how the process may be improved.

Unfortunately, your timescale means that even if the Council had wanted to respond there was insufficient time to consult with our elected members. I would be grateful if similar requests arise in the future that you allow four weeks for draft to be prepared and the required committee approval to be sought.

This is important as had the scope of the review been wider to include 'called in' applications the Council would have had the opportunity to set out its experience on all three of the areas highlighted. 'Called in' applications are also important to the local economy and provide confidence that we can respond to the needs of the wider economy and provide assurance that Northern Ireland is a good place to invest.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conor Hughes'.

Conor Hughes
Head of Service
Planning and Capital Development